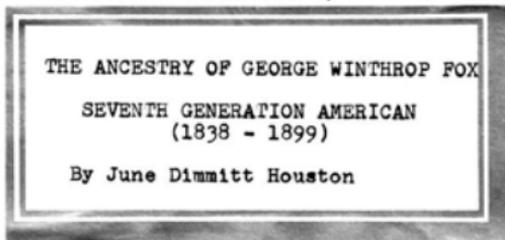


THE ANCESTRY OF GEORGE WINTHROP FOX
SEVENTH GENERATION AMERICAN
(1838 - 1899)



By June Dimmitt Houston

Santa Rosa, California

1981

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DIRECT LINE OF DESCENT

THOMAS FFOXE
(c 1619 - 14 April 1658)

m. Hannah Brooks

SAMUEL FOX
(c 1651 - 4 September 1727)

m. Joanna Way

ISAAC FOX
(c 1685 - 1754)

m. Mary Jones

DANIEL FOX
(1722 - 1801)

m. Elizabeth Gates

DANIEL FOX JR.
(27 July 1769 - 10 June 1815)

m. Nancy Langdon

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FOX
(5 April 1805 - 1 February 1869)

m. Elizabeth (Betsey) Crane

GEORGE WINTHROP FOX
(13 May 1838 - April 1899)

m. Sarah Thornton Donald

CHILDREN OF GEORGE WINTHROP FOX

CLAUDIUS m. Harriet Bement	b. 13 October 1867	d. 1956
PARKER	b. 1868	d. 1875
ZOE m. Fayette Henry Thorpe	b. 15 January 1870	d. 9 May 1969
CARL (CHARLES?)		
ETHEL m. Lorenz Otzen	b. 15 October 1877	d. 1961
BEATRICE m. Charles L. Dimmitt	b. 17 November 1880	d. 26 November 1944
Two infants, names and dates unknown		

SOURCES CONSULTED

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Hemstead	Diary (18 July 1735)
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FOREWORD

In writing the story of the Fox and Crane families I received assistance from various state and local libraries and historical associations, as well as employing the services of professional genealogists in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. In some instances librarians went out of their way to provide information or direct me to sources I might not otherwise have found, and to them I am grateful. I would like to acknowledge the following:

Cayuga County, New York Historian, Auburn,
New York.

Buffalo and Erie Public Library, Buffalo,
New York.

Jefferson County Historical Society, Watertown,
New York.

Syracuse Public Library, Syracuse, New York
Morristown Library, Morris County, New Jersey

Michigan Department of Education, State
Library Services, Lansing, Michigan.

California State Library, Sacramento,
California.

Redwood City Public Library, Redwood City,
California.

Two young women in San Mateo County -- Judith Dean and Betty Harada -- were extremely helpful, and their interest and enthusiasm were much appreciated. Census was read for New York State, the years 1800-1810-1820, and for Michigan, 1830-1850.

Mrs. Fay Thorpe Huyck of Carmel, California, was a source of family stories and old photographs, and Mrs. Avern Hinchman of San Francisco and Mrs. Muriel Marchais of San Jose supplied data on the Claud Fox family. I was also fortunate enough to meet and visit with Mr. and Mrs.

Francis Quigley who have lived fifty years in Santa Rosa.
To all of the above I extend my thanks.

June Dimmitt Houston,
daughter of Bee Fox Dimmitt.

NOTE:

All dates in the Genealogy are written in the order Day-
Month-Year. In each chapter dealing with a generation
the names of our direct ancestors are capitalized.
Widow's maiden names, when know, are enclosed in paren-
theses.

CHAPTER ONE

The first of our Foxes in America was THOMAS, who spelled his name with the double-F and was known as THOMAS FFOXTE OF CONCORD to distinguish him from another Thomas in the Massachusetts Bay Colony identified as Thomas Fox of Cambridge.

A probable birthdate for our Thomas is 1619. We know that he became a 'freeman' of the Colony in 1644, and at that time freemen were required to be twenty-one years of age. It is possible that his first marriage took place in England, but the twins who were the first-born have a known birthdate of 1642 and were born at Concord, Massachusetts. A logical year for Thomas' marriage would be 1640, if we consider that men in those days customarily married in their early twenties.

He was a man who stood solidly among his neighbors, and had been educated above the average, for his will was signed in a neat and legible hand at a time when many of his fellow colonists were still using the familiar 'x' in place of a signature. His name appears on the rolls of the Concord church, membership in which was a requirement for exercising the franchise. He lived near 'the great swamp' north of the church, on the road to Billerica. All of the children of his two marriages were born in Concord.

To be a freeman was like being a stock holder in the Colony. The freemen met in an assembly called the General Court and annually elected the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Assistants or councillors. The colony's founder, John Winthrop, and his company had carried their charter with them from London to the New World, which made the Massachusetts Bay Colony for a time virtually independent, with no royal governor, no royal judge, no English army garrison

or parliamentary agent. This government by freemen was not a democracy, but it was an important step in that direction. Both THOMAS FFOXE and his eldest son, Eliphalet, were freeman in the colony and thus had some say in its affairs.

THOMAS' first wife was Rebecca Wheate, thought to have been the sister of his friend Moses Wheate. By Rebecca he had three children: Mary, born 16 September 1642, living only one month, and her twin, Elizabeth, who grew up to marry John Ball, a tailor of Watertown, on 3 October 1665, to move with him to Lancaster, Massachusetts, and with her husband and son Joseph, born 12 March 1670, be killed by Indians. Their deaths occurred on 10 September 1675, during what was known as "King" Philip's War. Philip, the sachem of the Wampanoag tribe, had escaped to western Massachusetts and stirred up the Nipmuck and other tribes to burn, loot and massacre the settlers of such frontier villages as Lancaster, Brookfield and Deerfield, among others.

Thomas and Rebecca's son Eliphalet was born circa 1644. He married Mary Wheeler of Concord on 26 October 1665 and had six children. After her death in 1679 he married on 30 September of that same year Mary (Hunt) Stone, a widow of Sudbury, by whom he had two sons. A third wife appears to have been Mary (Bishop) Coburn, another widow. Eliphalet was the ancestor of numerous Massachusetts and Connecticut Foxes.

Rebecca Wheate Fox died on 5 May 1645 and on 13 December 1647 THOMAS FFOXE married HANNAH BROOKS, daughter of Henry Brooks of Woburn, Massachusetts. Very little time elapsed between marriages in those days, particularly when a man was left with young children to raise. By this second marriage there were six children, including our ancestor SAMUEL.

1. Hannah
- b. 25 September 1648; m. Daniel Lester of Connecticut, a step-brother, 1 October 1668, and had

he had six sons and two daughters,
all born in Medford, Massachusetts.

On 25 January 1658 THOMAS FFOXE drew up his will, still on file in the Clerk's Office, Middlesex County, Massachusetts Hannah Brooks Fox, the widow, was named executrix; on 23 April 1658 the will was presented to be recorded by Thomas Brooks, an uncle, and duly put on file. Eliphalet, the eldest son by Rebecca Wheate, was to receive 'both house and lands, cattle and moveables' upon reaching the age of twenty-one; until that time Hannah would be custodian. When Eliphalet came into his inheritance he was to allot to the other Fox children their just portions, continuing to enjoy two-thirds of the land and meadow while leaving Hannah in occupancy of the dwelling house, with use of a third part of the barn and land during her lifetime. If Eliphalet should for any reason fail to distribute the monies etc., as instructed, Hannah was to see that such sums were paid and would also have the power to dispose of the house and lands to her own children. The will stipulates that certain pieces of property be excepted and establishes (rather generously) that if Hannah remarries before Eliphalet attains his majority, she is nevertheless to receive a third part of the estate's yearly worth. A practical New Englander, Thomas did not fail to grant the overseers of the will 'power to dispose of all my children to trades and abroad as they shall see cause,' but as a good husband and father he added that Hannah should have the liberty to choose 'any one of them I had by her to continue with her.'

The overseers were: 'my loving uncle Thomas Brooks, my loving brethren Moses Wheate and Thomas Bateman, and my loving friend and neighbor Robert Fletcher.' Fletcher witnessed the signing of the will with Edward Bulkley and attested to it before Major Simon Willard at a court held at Charlestown on 14 June 1658. It was then entered by Thomas Danforth, Recorder.

I have described the will of THOMAS FFOXE in some detail because such documents frequently provide a key to character as well as revealing something of a man's times. Thomas shows himself as religious, responsible, canny but fair, in other words an example of the better type of settler found in the New England colonies in the seventeenth century.

Indentured servants were the exceptions there rather than the rule; the English immigrants were mostly middle-class farmers (yeomen), tradesmen or artisans who were possessed of enough property to require wills. Their guide in life was a common belief in the Bible as law; government decisions were often determined by a combination of intuition and Holy Writ. No stigma was attached to manual labor and every man, however poor, was entitled to vote as long as he was a church member in good standing.

Next to religion, education was of high importance with these Puritan people. Every settlement had at least a 'dames' school,' and families with sufficient means employed a tutor for their children. Sports of various kinds had been brought from home and were heartily and healthily enjoyed, along with horse raising and even racing, although the placing of wagers was discouraged by the elders.

With the signature on THOMAS FFOXE'S will went a seal imprinted with a coat-of-arms, which led some to believe that Thomas belonged to the family of the Reverend John Foxe, whose famous work THE BOOK OF MARTYRS had won him a royal grant and the right to bear and display arms. This theory is unfounded, however, and one of the Fox genealogists has suggested that the seal is identical to that used by the Reverend Peter Bulkley, a clergyman friend, who may very possibly have drawn up the will and sealed it with his own ring.

It is reasonable to suppose that Eliphalet Fox came to enjoy full possession of Thomas' property, for Hannah Fox did remarry, becoming the third wife of Andrew Lester

of New London, and removing to Connecticut with daughter Hannah and three of her sons---young Thomas, SAMUEL and John; David and Isaac may have remained with the Brooks family in Woburn, Massachusetts, at this time.

There is an intriguing note in an anonomous typescript genealogy made in 1931. Under the date 1711 it reads: "A Hannah Fox sought four-pounds-twenty-five shillings in compensation for loss suffered in a witchcraft trial in the year 1692." This was of course the time of the infamous Salem witch-hunt, persecutions sparked by the hysteria of a few adolescent girls. When relatives, friends or neighbors of those accused attempted to defend them, or so much as let it be known that they themselves did not believe in the existence of witches, they were not only ostracized socially but suffered damage to and loss of property. Consequently, a number of claims were later brought and compensation was obtained in some cases around the year 1711. Trials were held in other places in the colony, and it would be interesting to be able to place our several possible Hannahs at that time. HANNAH BROOKS FOX is supposed to have married a third time after Andrew Lester's death, but this husband's name is not known; her daughter Hannah became Hannah Lester when she married one of Andrew Lester's sons; however, the third wife of the much-married John Fox was Hannah (Isbell) Stedman, who became Hannah Fox in 1690. She died before 1711, but the compensation sought may have been collected by a relative, as was frequently the case.

NOTE:

The Phips' Expedition in which David Fox participated was organized by Sir William Phips. He was the son of a Maine fisherman, one of twenty-six children, who made his fortune by the recovery of sunken treasure in the Caribbean and was knighted by James II after financing the building of two ships for the Royal Navy.

The Expedition was the first offensive in what was known as King William's War. It was aimed at French

Acadia---the land of Longfellow's poem "Evangeline"---and at Port Royal, which was captured in May of 1690, the French governor being sent to Boston as a prisoner. The force required for a second expedition, however, was too large for the colony to support, especially when ammunition promised by the British failed to arrive. Chartered merchant ships carried 2200 volunteers, mostly fishermen, and reached Quebec on 7 October, but Count Frontenac was able to defeat such an undisciplined landing force, whereupon Phips decided to retreat, thus permitting the French to recover Port Royal in 1691.

By this time many of the colonists involved had already begun to desert and return to their homes in disgust. The colonials were more easily roused to fight against the Indians who were a constant menace to their families and the new settlements; they showed far less enthusiasm for battling the French on behalf of a king overseas.

Sir William Phips' lack of military strategy was the chief cause of England's recalling the colony's original charter and the creation of the royal province of Massachusetts which ended the provisional government; nevertheless he was appointed the first royal Governor. It was during this governorship that the witchcraft trials at Salem took place, and Lady Phips herself was at one point accused. This may have been what obliged Sir William finally to attend the trials in person, after having ignored them as long as he could. Lady Phips escaped punishment, but this indicates that the accusers were not overawed by rank in their fanatical attacks.

CHAPTER TWO

SAMUEL FOX, the son of Thomas Fox and his second wife, HANNAH BROOKS FOX, was born ca 1651 at Concord, Massachusetts. After his father's death in 1658 he was one of the three sons who accompanied Hannah to New London, Connecticut, where she married Andrew Lester.

SAMUEL is listed as 'of New London' in the account of the 'Great Swamp Fight' in 1675 which has been described as 'the toughest battle, not excepting Bunker Hill, ever fought on New England soil.' (See Note at end of Chapter.)

On 30 March 1676 he married Mary (Moore) Lester, the daughter of Miles Moore and Isabel Joyner, and the widowed daughter-in-law of Samuel's stepfather Andrew Lester. They had four children:

1. Abigail
2. Elizabeth (m. 1) Frederick Platt 2) John Bailey)
3. Anna (may also have married John Bailey)
4. Samuel the Elder, b. 1681, m. Margaret Stebbins, 1703, Zipporah Bowles, 1753.

By his second marriage to JOANNA WAY (possibly WAITE) SAMUEL had two sons;

1. ISAAC b. ca 1685, m. 1) MARY JONES 2) Mary Reynolds
3) Susannah Steere (See Chapter Three.)
2. Benjamin b. 1688. Took part in Wood Creek Expedition of 1709 from Lynn, Massachusetts, m. Azubah Tuttle of Colchester, 1710.

JOANNA WAY died in a prevailing epidemic that swept the colony in 1689, and the following year SAMUEL married his third wife, Bathsheba or Bathshua (Rogers) Smith, the widow of Richard Smith.

Bathsheba was the daughter of James Rogers, said to have been 'the wealthiest man in the Colony of New London after Governor Winthrop.' In religion James Rogers was a non-conformist who refused to observe the Sabbath and

was a declared opponent of infant baptism. As early as 1676 his son founded the sect of 'Rogerenes' and once received fifteen lashes for 'rebaptizing people.' From all accounts, Bathsheba was as staunch in her beliefs as her brother. After their marriage SAMUEL FOX became a '7th Day Baptist,' was arraigned for catching eels on a Sunday and went openly to the meeting house with his wife to declare they 'did servile work on the Sabbath and made no difference in days.' Both seem to have courted persecution and made no effort to avoid martyrdom. Their son was called, confusingly, Samuel the younger; he was born in 1691, married 1) Hannah Fox, a cousin, 1712, and 2) Rachel Rogers, another cousin, in 1714. After his father's death this younger Samuel held the family lands in Newbern, Connecticut, including Great or General Neck.

On 8 September 1715 SAMUEL FOX married for a third time. This wife, Esther or Hester Allen, survived him. In his lifetime he was a considerable land holder; besides the property in the vicinity of New London he owned 500 acres in North Parish, now Montville, with both a saw and a grist mill. Fox's Mills, as they are marked on old maps, were bequeathed to Samuel the Elder, the son of Mary (Moore) Lester. Before he encountered Batsheba, SAMUEL'S name appeared on the roll of the First Church of Christ, the established church, in New London, dated 1681, and on the Patent of New London dated 1704.

His will, written 6 April 1727, was recorded in September and is in the State Library at Hartford with an estate inventory made in 1728. His sons ISAAC and Benjamin received bequests along with his daughter Elizabeth and Anna. Samuel the Elder was bequeathed his father's wearing apparel, while Samuel the Younger received all the farm tools. SAMUEL, 76 when he died on 4 September 1727, was buried in 'the ancientest burial ground' in New London, Connecticut.

NOTE:

The Great Swamp Fight was part of a preventive war against the Narragansett Indians who were harboring Wampanoag refugees. One thousand officers and men were transported by sea to a devastated settlement on Narragansett Bay. On 19 November they marched through snow, guided by friendly Indians, to a 'hideous swamp' in the present township of South Kingston, Rhode Island.

Three thousand of the Narragansett were entrenched behind a triple palisade and in a blockhouse. The van of the English Army forced entrance, losing five company commanders in the action, and desperate fighting continued all afternoon. No quarter was given until two-thirds of the enemy were killed or burned with their wigwams. The rest escaped, and as snow began to fall at twilight the commander, Winslow, gave his men orders to retire. The survivors filed off through the woods, carrying their wounded, and reached the Bay at 2 a.m., having marched thirty-six miles and fought savagely all within a single day. Eight of their fourteen company commanders had been killed.

Due to a breakdown in communication, the hardy survivors were obliged to spend a Valley Forge winter at Wickford, Rhode Island, but their discomforts were tempered by the knowledge that the power of the Narragansett was broken forever.

18 July 1735. Susannah had two daughters named Anne and Ruth, but we do not know whether they were the children of ISAAC FOX or of William Steere.

Of ISSAC FOX'S sons, two---John and DANIEL---served as corporals in Captain Whiting's Company during the Colonial Wars against the Indians who were incited to savagery against the colonists by both the French and the British prior to the American Revolution.

4. Allen b. 1 July 1755; m. Chloe Crittenden
5. Dimmis b. 13 June 1757; m. 1) Brown Chamberlain 2) Daniel Brainard. Dimmis moved to Canandaigua, New York, in 1789. Two of her sons--- Daniel and Jeremiah---married sisters of Benjamin Franklin Fox, her brother.
6. Ansel b. 16 February 1759; killed at the Battle of Monmouth by grapeshot, 28 June 1778. There is an inscription in his memory on his father's tombstone in the old cemetery near Richmond Furnace, Massachusetts.

Four of the sons listed above served as soldiers in the American Revolution: Reuben, Hubbard, Allen and Ansel Fox.

Hannah Burr Fox died on 17 August 1761, and on 11 December of the same year DANIEL married ELIZABETH GATES, daughter of David and Hannah Ackley Gates. The family was living in Millington, Connecticut, until 1777, so the children of both Hannah and ELIZABETH FOX were born there, with the exception of the youngest son, Gabriel Ely Fox, named for the family's favorite physician, who was probably born in Canaan, New York.

DANIEL and ELIZABETH'S children were:

1. Jehiel b. 21 August 1762; m. Jerusha Baldwin; d. 1825 in Hoosick Falls, New York. Appears in the New York Census as early as 1790.
2. Leavitt b. 10 September 1764; d. 1823, Hoosick Falls.
3. Luna b. 10 September 1764 (twin); m. _____ Alger.
4. Amasa b. 14 February 1767; m. Susanna _____; lived at Hounsfield, New York, a pioneer settler, and at Sacket's Harbor, New York, where he died circa 1810 and was buried in Muskelonga Cemetery.

CHAPTER FIVE

DANIEL FOX JR., the son of DANIEL FOX and his second wife, ELIZABETH GATES, was born on 27 July 1769 and baptized in Millington, Connecticut. It is probable that he is the Daniel who appears in the 1790 census for New York State; where two Daniels are listed, this would account for the presence there of both father and son.

DANIEL JR.'S brother Amasa Fox, mentioned in the preceding chapter, was one of the first settlers of Hounsfield, New York, and in Hough's History of Jefferson County there are a number of references to him as the first white man who braved the dangers of the then wilderness and 'swung his axe amid the sea-like silence.' Amasa is credited with having made the first improvements in the town and his name appears prominently in its early records. It is quite possible that DANIEL JR. spent some time with this brother before his marriage to NANCY LANGDON of Salisbury, Connecticut.

We have no precise date for their marriage, nor do we know where it took place---in Connecticut or New York---but a son, Augustus Carlton Fox, was born at Westmorland, Oneida County, New York, on 11 March 1792. There are four sons for whom no birth records have been located Winthrop, Charles, Chauncey and Champion---so it is necessary to approximate dates for them. Champion is said to have died in the War of 1812; Charles was a tanner like his grandfather, a good trade in those days, especially so near the fur-producing areas of Canada; Winthrop was a farmer in the vicinity of Buffalo, New York.

DANIEL JR. moved with his family to Virginia before 1800, because on 8 January of that year Betsey Langdon Fox was born at Jamestown; on 28 March 1801 here sister Marcia was born at Chester; another girl, named Mary and

called Polly, was born either in Virginia or after the family's return to New York. Of these daughters, Betsey married 1) William Kennedy and 2) on 10 October 1827, William Parker Daniels. She died in Lockport, New York on 27 Novemeber 1877. Marcia married Daniel Brainard, son of Dimmis Fox Brainard; her sister Polly married Jeremiah Gates Brainard, Daniel's brother, and died in 1867. Both appear in the Brainard Geneology.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FOX was born on 3 April 1805, m. ELIZABETH (BETSEY) CRANE in 1827, and died in California in 1869. (See Chapter Six.)

After returning from Virginia DANIEL FOX JR. enlisted in the Ninth U.S. Infantry. He was serving in the Infantry at the time of his death at Sacket's Harbor, New York, on 10 June 1815. This was at the time of the War of 1812 with the British and on that date an attack on the port which commanded entrance to the St. Lawrence River was repelled by the American with heavy losses; DANIEL was among these.

NANCY LANGDON FOX was left a widow-with at least four minor children. So far as we know she lived for a time in the Buffalo area with her son Winthrop, or at Hamburg with Augustus, but when she died in 1852 it was at Lockport, New York, where her daughter Betsey Fox Daniels lived.

Augustus Carlton Fox, with whom BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FOX lived and with whom he began to study law, had married Esther Pratt in 1815. He owned farmland, as well as being a practicing attorney; there were three sons we know of: Samuel R., Benjamin F., and William. In 1827 BENJAMIN F. FOX was married to ELIZABETH (BETSEY) CRANE by the Honorable Samuel Russell, a friend of Augustus Fox, and both bride and groom are listed as being 'of Hamburg,' a village close to the town of Buffalo. They were probably married in the Augustus Fox home.

According to records, Augustus suffered a mental breakdown sometime afterward, and on 12 October 1829 he

was committed to the Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum where he remained until his death in 1849. In 1840 his wife and his son Samuel, then of Springville, petitioned to manage his estate, property already having been sold by trustees, one of whom was Hiram Pratt, either father-or brother-in-law. Although it appears he suffered from recurrent depression, which in these days is effectively treated, in his era Augustus remained incarcerated for twenty years!

It is logical to believe that BENJAMIN F. FOX paid at least one visit to his family in New York from Michigan where he and BETSEY CRANE FOX had settled following their marriage. The distance was not so great that he could not have made the trip before he himself took off for the West in 1849-50. However, there appear to be no family stories of the relationship between BENJAMIN and the brothers and sisters who remained back East.

CHAPTER SIX

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FOX was ten years old when his father, DANIEL JR., died at Sacket's Harbor.

A brief sketch in Michigan Biographies (published by the Michigan Historical Commission, Lansing, Michigan, in 1924) and his obituary in the San Mateo County Gazette (California) of 6 February 1869, corroborate BENJAMIN'S birthplace as Whitesboro, Oneida County, New York; the date was 3 or 4 April 1804 or 1805. The family had returned from Virginia and the father would soon be enlisting in the 9th U.S. Infantry; one genealogist gives the place of enlistment as Buffalo, but this does not indicate that DANIEL, his wife and children were in residence there at that time. These are accounts that say BENJAMIN moved from Oneida County in 1812; if so, he would have been in Buffalo to witness the burning of the then small frontier settlement by the British.

After his father's death BENJAMIN made his home with his brother Augustus Carlton Fox, who was described as 'a lawyer of considerable prominence,' and it was under this brother that he began his own study of the law. According to the New York Census of the time, Augustus Fox (1792-1849?) lived in Hamburg (or Eden) township, adjacent to Buffalo.

If BENJAMIN first went to the Michigan Territory in 1826, as Michigan Biographies states, he returned the following year for his marriage to ELIZABETH (BETSEY) CRANE on 9 May 1827. The marriage was noted in the newspaper The Buffalo Emporium as having been performed on that date by the Honorable Samuel Russell; almost immediately after the wedding the young couple left to make a home in the densely timbered country lying west of Detroit, still a virtual wilderness.

In Michigan BENJAMIN farmed, after clearing his own land like all pioneers, and practiced what was referred to as his 'natural skill' as a mechanic, but he continued his law career as well, qualifying for the bar and becoming a judge; in 1849, at the time of his first trip overland to California, he was serving in the Michigan State Legislature representing Jackson County.

It was in Redford Township, Wayne County, however, that all but one of BENJAMIN and BETSEY FOX'S children were born. They were:

1. Charles Nelson Fox, b. 3 Sept. 1829; m.
1) Celestia Taylor, 1850,
2) Lucy Taylor, her sister,
1860, 3) Mary (Schwartz)
Rice, 1864; d. 1 May 1904,
in Oakland, California.
(See further account.)
2. Sarah Elizabeth b. 8 March 1830; m. Andrew
Jackson Quigley, 1848; d.
6 Sept. 1905, in Plumas
County, California.
3. Harriet Inez b. 7 April 1832; d. 27 April
1854 at Strawberry, Cali-
fornia.
4. Nancy Loraine b. 18 July 1834; m. Samuel
Palmer, 1852; d. 30 Dec-
ember 1923, Monterey County,
California.
5. Benjamin F. Jr. b. 30 May 1836; m. Ella
Wynne, 1869; d. 19 February
1900, Santa Barbara, Cali-
fornia.
6. GEORGE WINTHROP FOX b. 13 May 1838; m. Sarah
Thornton Donald, 1864; d.
1 April 1899, in Redwood
City, California. (See
Chapter Seven.)
7. Chester Palmer b. 11 September 1840; d. 24
April 1885.
8. Louisa Ann b. 3 April 1843 at Linden,
Michigan; d. 7 August 1844
at Linden.

In the winter of 1849/50 BENJAMIN FOX interrupted his career to travel overland with a party of Michiganders,

or Wolverines. With twenty-two others he was caught by the snows of the Sierras near Pilot Peak at Poorman's Creek, a tributary of Nelson Creek, and was one of only eleven to survive. There is an account of this in The Life and Times of La Porte (Plumas Co. Historical Society, Publication No. 6). The party was forced to endure the same horrors as the ill-fated Donner party of a few years before, and according to family tradition, BENJAMIN would never speak of the experience and did not like to be reminded of it.

For a time he remained in the vicinity of La Porte, originally called Rabbit Creek. He built a cabin and sank a 500 foot shaft where he believed there was a gold deposit but because of underground water seepage the enterprise never proved successful. However, he provided a valuable service in leading pack trains of mules over the mountains with supplies desperately needed by the arriving parties of emigrants. He became very familiar with the terrain, and when a few years later he brought his family out from Michigan, the knowledge he had acquired proved very valuable.

The entire family of BENJAMIN FOX crossed the Plains to California in 1853 with the exception of the eldest son, Charles Nelson Fox, who had married and was living in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he practiced law, edited a newspaper, and served for a time as mayor. Charles came west in 1856, by which time his father and mother were living in San Mateo County on the peninsula south of San Francisco.

BENJAMIN F. FOX was elected the first Superior Court Judge of that county when it was divided from the City and County of San Francisco in 1856. This election has been described as an 'opera bouffe,' and there are detailed accounts of it in Roy Cloud's History of San Mateo County (1928) and in Crossroads by Gilbert Richards (1973). Richard Schellens, while researching the life of Judge

Fox, discovered newspaper references which he left in notes, now in the archives of the Redwood City Public Library.

In brief, 1856 was the same year that saw San Francisco's Second Committee of the Vigilance spring into action. There was a large criminal element in the city, well represented in the highest places in city government. When the new county of San Mateo was split off, these elements intended to control it from its inception; consequently they ran their own candidates for political offices. Two flagrant examples were Bernard Mulligan, brother of one of the city's most notorious politicians, for Sheriff, and a bartender named Grey for County Clerk.

On Election Day crowds of toughs poured over the new county line, fictitious names were freely used, the passenger list of a newly-arrived vessel was inserted in the list of registered voters, and Billy Mulligan, along with Grey's employer, insisted on counting the ballots. Some ballot boxes simply disappeared; others were stuffed. In retrospect such broad offenses might seem comic, but at the time they roused considerable consternation.

Of course the results were challenged, and at the first court held by Judge Fox at Angelo's Hotel in Belmont on 10 June 1856, a judgement of fraud was delivered, with only the elections of Judge Fox, John Johnston and Charles Fair being allowed to stand since they were judged as 'not having been in any way connected with the illegal proceedings.' BENJAMIN F. FOX served from 1856 to 1862, surviving a special election held in 1858 which he contested with Horace Templeton.

It was Judge Fox who issued the first bench warrant for Judge David S. Terry's arrest for murder following the death of David C. Broderick in the famous duel near Lake Merced. Judge Fox also served on a committee for a memorial monument to Broderick, so he was not entirely non-partisan in the matter. He was a Democrat, but always a staunch believer in the Union, as were his sons.

Both the Fox daughters who were already married when the family came west, settled with their husbands in California. Sarah E. Quigley and her husband raised a family of ten in Plumas County. The late J.J. McIntosh of Stockton compiled a very thorough record of their descendants before his death in 1979. Nancy Loraine Fox Palmer and her husband lived in Priest Valley, Gilroy, Lompoc and San Jose. "Aunt Nan" died in 1923, and unfortunately we know very little about her family; it is possible there was only one daughter.

Charles Nelson Fox, after coming to California, continued his double career as journalist and attorney. From 1857 to 1861 he served as District Attorney of San Mateo County as well as editing the Times-Gazette, a newspaper with which his brother GEORGE WINTHROP FOX was also associated. After GEORGE was admitted to the bar, the brothers practiced together with Charles as senior partner, having offices in both Redwood City and San Francisco. Subsequently Charles N. was a partner in the firm of Campbell, Fox and Campbell, and a senior partner in the firm of Fox and Kellogg. He was known as a 'corporation lawyer,' which earned him both praise and criticism. In 1863 he was president of the Corte Madera Water Company, and in 1865 of the Western Pacific Railroad. He was active in the field of education, in lodge work, and donated the lot on which the first Congregational Church was built in Redwood City. At one time he was also grand Worthy Patriarch of the California Sons of Temperance.

In politics Charles N. Fox was also originally a Democrat and in the first election of Abraham Lincoln voted for his opponent. However, upon the outbreak of the Rebellion, he espoused the Union cause and continued, from that time onward, a zealous Republican. On 25 June 1889 he was appointed Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court by then Governor Waterman.

There is a fulsome account of Charles N. Fox's personality and appearance in Volume 1 of Alonzo Phelps'

Contemporary Biography of California's Representative Men (1881); a portrait accompanies the article.

Charles married three times; first, in Ann Arbor, 11 June 1850, Celestia Taylor; second, in California, 7 January 1860, Lucy Taylor, Celestia's sister; and third, 29 June 1864, Mary (Schwartz) Rice, a widow with two children whom he adopted. The children by his first marriage were Frank, Capitola and Annie; there was a daughter of the second marriage born 1 January 1861; Mary and Ida Frances were daughters of Mary Schwartz Rice; Minnie and George Rice were the adopted children. There is a family story to the effect that Minnie Rice Fox romantically married first Morgan Hill, for whom the town was named; later she married a German and went to live in Germany before the First World War. Another family story tells of Ida Fox joining her sister there, being ill-advised by her brother-in-law as to investments, and ending her life as the head mistress of a girl's school in England. (An interesting note is that Morgan Hill's sister was the semi-notorious Sarah Althea Hill who was the mistress, or contract-wife, of William Sharon, and later married Judge David S. Terry who killed David Broderick in the duel.)

In the Fox cemetery plot in Redwood City's old Union Cemetery there is a stone for the Charles N. Fox family bearing the names of Celestia and Lucy. We know that two or three of his children died of whooping cough, but if they were buried in the family plot the stones have disappeared. Charles himself died in Oakland on 1 May 1904, his widow at a later date. If there were descendants, we have not been able to locate them.

Benjamin Fox Jr. was the military man in this generation of the family. On the first call for troops in 1861 he enlisted in the Massachusetts's Cavalry unit known as "Reed's Hundred," but before the unit left California he was commissioned a lieutenant in the first regiment of

California Cavalry, Company G (or K; records differ). In 1862 he left with his regiment and served throughout the War in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. At the time of the Confederate surrender to General Sheridan in Texas, Benjamin held the rank of Major.

After the War he was in command of the Federal forces at Fort Worth, and later was involved in Indian warfare in the Southwest. He was mustered out on 4 July 1886 and engaged in cattle ranching in Texas, later moving to California. He settled in Santa Barbara where he died on 19 February 1900. On 19 September 1869 in Cleburne, Texas, he married Ella Wynne, by whom he had five children. His widow lived into the 1940's, dying in Alhambra, California.

The youngest son of BENJAMIN and BETSEY CRANE FOX was Chester Palmer Fox, known as Chet, who never married, so far as we know. On his twenty-first birthday in 1861 he was given a Bible by his mother, in which she wrote "May this little book teach you how to live and how to die." It may have accompanied Chet to Virginia City, Nevada, where he drove for the Overland Stage Company. Later he was appointed a guard at San Quentin Prison under Warden Ames, and after that was employed by the Northern Pacific Express Company. There is an item on record of his having sold his drayage wagon to John Poole of Redwood City.

At various times Chet also acted as an undersheriff in Redwood City, and was active as a volunteer fireman. There is a brief account in the local newspaper that indicates he may have been a bit too kind-hearted an enforcer of the law. "31 August 1873: Sunday afternoon the Sheriff left Chet Fox in charge of the county jail. One of the prisoners asked Mr. Fox to get him some tobacco and when he returned he found that the bars in the front door had been cut and three of the five prisoners had escaped. One of these had tried to kill Mrs. Welch, another was arrested in Pescadero, and the third

was in for a minor sentence. The three made good their escape and were not recaptured."

On 24 April 1884 Chester Fox died at the home of his brother GEORGE WINTHROP FOX in Redwood City, and was buried in the Union Cemetery.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FOX and BETSEY CRANE FOX, after coming to California lived first on the Howard place later moving to Redwood City, the county seat. It was said that BENJAMIN never entirely recovered from the ordeal in the snows of 1849-50, and that it was a recurrence of 'his old troubles' that caused his health to fail as age took its toll. He died on 1 February 1869 at the age of 64 years and ten months, survived by his widow, four sons, and two daughters.

BETSEY CRANE FOX survived him by fifteen years, making her home alternately with sons Charles N. and GEORGE W. After what was described as 'a long but almost painless illness' she died in Oakland on 30 April 1884. She was buried with her husband in Union Cemetery, Redwood City. Their stones remain in the old plot, but have been badly damaged by vandals.

(See the CRANE GENEALOGY for further information about Betsey.)

CHAPTER SEVEN

GEORGE WINTHROP FOX, born in Redford Township, Wayne County, Michigan, on 13 May 1838, was the sixth child and third son of BENJAMIN F. and ELIZABETH (BETSEY) CRANE FOX.

The original house built by his parents on the edge of the wilderness after their arrival from New York State had become a proper home by the time of his birth, but Wayne County was still close enough to the frontier to make life fairly primitive and danger from the elements and even from Indians still ever-present.

The family was obliged to be self-supporting, and all the Fox children grew up with a knowledge of the land, crops, the weather, and livestock. Although the father, BENJAMIN, was an attorney and went on to be a judge and to serve in the state legislature, and two of the sons became journalists and lawyers, their early experiences served them well. Benjamin F. Fox Jr. pursued an army career as a cavalryman and later became a cattle rancher in Texas; Chet, the youngest, drove a stagecoach in the early days in Nevada; and throughout his life, according to the journals he kept, GEORGE W. FOX never failed to make a note of the daily temperature, prevailing winds, etc., just as a farmer would. His early education was obtained near home; only the eldest son, Charles N., attended the university at Ann Arbor; before he had reached the age for higher learning, George was on the move to California with the family.

Of the crossing of the Plains, his daughters remembered his telling of how he and Chet cared for the animals on which the travellers depended for survival and helped with the management of the unwieldy wagons; Ben Jr., already looking forward to being a cavalryman, preferred scouting. GEORGE, fifteen years old, learned to play "Oh,

Susanana" on the banjo, sitting around the campfires in the evenings. Dinner was often "rock soup" which was the result of each of the emigrant wives contributing whatever food they had on hand to a common pot to which their husbands would add game caught that day, if luck had been good.

GEORGE'S two married sisters and their husbands were in the Fox party. Sarah Elizabeth Quigley, who had lost her first child in Michigan, was traveling with her daughter, two-year-old Inez Imogene: Nan Palmer, who had been recently married, always said she walked across the Plains in order not to be separated from her young husband, Sam.

The third sister, Harriet, was frail, and among the pieces of furniture brought from home was a low rocker for her use. Another chair proved to be an irritation to BETSEY CRANE FOX. This was an overstuffed 'Turkish' armchair which had been a gift to BENJAMIN FOX from his clients and constituents in Michigan. It rode in the back of one of the wagons, taking up an inordinate amount of space, and could not be discarded, even when the going got rough and other smaller pieces, treasured by BETSEY, had to be left behind. The 'Turkish chair' is still in use in the home of Benjamin and Betsey's great-granddaughter.

The Fox family remained on the Howard ranch until after Redwood City became the established county seat. Just when the move to Redwood City was made cannot be determined, but it seems probable that GEORGE W. FOX and SARAH THORNTON DONALD became acquainted when both the Fox and Donald families lived near Belmont or San Mateo. John Donald, an Englishman, had come from Cumberland in England to New Brunswick, Canada, to join an older brother, and had then moved to near Boston, Massachusetts, where as a landscape gardener he had worked on the re-laying-out of the Boston Common. At the time of the Gold Rush he made the trip to California via the Isthmus of Panama route, and after a brief dissatisfied return to New

England came back to California and sent for his wife and two children to follow him by the sailing vessel Witch of the Waves, a voyage of six months! The Donalds first lived in what is now the Baywood section of San Mateo, on the Macondray place (later Parrot's), before moving to property purchased by John Donald that lay between the County Road and the Bay, near Belmont. (There are plats in Gilbert Richards' book Crossroads showing the location of the Donald land.)

SARAH THORNTON DONALD attended a school near her home, but later studied with the Sisters of the Order of Notre Dame at Santa Clara, travelling from Belmont by stage with a picnic lunch put up for her by her mother. This lunch was to make it unnecessary for young Sarah to take her meal with her fellow passengers at the stage stop on Main Street in Redwood City. This stop was at a house that drew and held the young girl's interest enough that she determined to someday live in it. When she married GEORGE W. FOX in July of 1864, eloping to San Francisco first and following this with a religious ceremony in her father's house, she moved to Redwood City, and after living as a bride in a small house on El Camino Real, she became the mistress of the former stage stop when George purchased the property on Main Street.

While studying law with his brother Charles N. Fox, GEORGE served two terms as Deputy Sheriff; after being admitted to the bar in 1863 he entered into partnership with Charles Fox, with offices in San Francisco and Redwood City. During the Civil War he wrote editorials for the San Mateo County Gazette that did much to foster the Union cause. He was a lifelong Democrat who never found reason to switch his alliance, even though his political career in a strongly Republican county suffered accordingly. He did serve a term as District Attorney, and was active in his political party's affairs. Like the other men in his family he was deeply involved in

in lodge work and belonged to fraternal organizations such as the Masons, Odd Fellows, A.O.U.W. and the Knights of Pythias, in the latter of which he held a grand office. He was member of the Exempt Firemen and the Society of San Mateo County Pioneers.

GEORGE W. FOX and SARAH DONALD FOX had the following children:

1. Claudius (Claude) b. 13 October 1867; m. Harriet Bement on 4 September 1890; d. 1956 at Redwood City, California.
2. Parker b. 1868 d. 1875
3. Zoe b. 15 January 1870; m. Fayette Thorpe on 17 December 1892; d. at the age of ninety-nine on 9 May 1969.
4. Carl (or Charles) b. 187- d. 187-
5. Ethel b. 15 October 1877; m. Lorenz Otzen; d. 1961 at Redwood City.
6. Beatrice (Bee) b. 17 November 1880; m. Charles Lyon Dimmitt on 12 June 1914; d. 26 Nov. 1944.

Also two babies still-born, dates unknown.

The Foxes appear to have maintained a close family relationship, judging by entries in GEORGE'S Day Books of 1884, 1889 and 1896. There were visits made and received; while BETSY CRANE FOX was alive and making her home alternately with her sons GEORGE and Charles, Sarah Elizabeth Fox Quigley and her husband Andrew came from La Porte in Plumas County and Nan Palmer from Monterey County, and on several occasions one or more of the Fox children went to visit in Priest's Valley or in Oakland at the Charles Fox home. Ben Fox Jr. visited while still in military uniform and caused a social stir.

John and Ann Donald lived on their own place until age began to take its toll; there are notations regarding illnesses which required visits to Belmont, and GEORGE began to handle more and more of John Donald's business affairs. SARAH'S younger sister Mary, born in California,

had married George Ross, an attorney, and for some years George Ross and GEORGE FOX practiced together in Redwood City; before their deaths the Donalds made their home with the Rosses.

The Fox family, living in the former stage stop on Main Street which had been altered and added on to, were very much a part of the community. In the Day Books there are mentions of lodge parties and picnics, Fourth of July parades, New Year's Eve Balls, and theatrical performances at Germania Hall. To these plays and operettas GEORGE escorted "the little girls," meaning Ethel and Bee; he, also noted trips made to San Francisco to buy suits of clothes 'for Claudie;' when Zoe was absent for a considerable time from her first teaching position her father worried, communicated with her principal and finally drove to Millbrae in the buggy to explain Zoe's mysterious illness which may have been 'stage fright' on the part of the young teacher.

The Day Books are very simple journals of everyday doings, but they give more than a picture of family life. For instance, I found that the telephone was in use earlier than I had thought; in 1884 GEORGE referred to receiving a message from San Mateo. In that year a maid was hired for two dollars per week; Johnny Donald, Sarah's brother, 'came with his colt and Dugan to drive;' besides trips to Fresno, Fairfield in Solano County, Sacramento and Ukiah, on either law or lodge business, there were vacations---usually for the wife and the children; Claudie would escort his mother and the little girls and be responsible for communicating their safe arrival to his father at home. There are brief, often intriguing accounts of court cases; in one, Attorney Fox defended a father who stood up in court and shot in the back the young man who had been charged with assaulting his daughter at an Alsatian picnic, and got an acquittal on grounds of temporary insanity. On another occasion GEORGE worried

for days about a distraught wife who disappeared after complaining of her husband's treatment; the attorney's relief was evident when the missing lady showed up again safe and sound. There are several references to defending Chinese at a time when Orientals in California were often unfairly treated; beautifully embroidered silk handkerchiefs given as "thank-you's" attest to GEORGE FOX'S friendship with some of these clients.

He also served as administrator for the estates of a number of prominent citizens, and when S.M. Mezes, the founder of Redwood City (originally Mezesville), was found unconscious after a lethal dose of chloral-hydrate, GEORGE FOX was among those summoned to the death bed. He wrote the obituary article as well as making arrangements for the funeral of Mr. Mezes. He was frequently called upon to assist at autopsies on murder or accident victims, and served as pall-bearer at funerals depressingly often.

It would be possible to continue the notes from the Day Books almost indefinitely. A balloon ascension, a total eclipse of the moon, the Johnstown-Flood, McKinley's election, a trip electioneering in Pescadero and Spanish-town, an earthquake or merely the first frost are treated equally in the book's pages. Reading the entries, it is possible to see Redwood City growing, developing, with the coming of electricity, the expansion of transportation, inventions that were startling to inhabitants who could remember the simplicity and hardships of pioneer life.

In the Library Archives, among the notes made by Richard Schellens, there are various items concerning GEORGE W. FOX, but it was particularly rewarding to read an obituary bearing no newspaper name and no date (we know that the date of death was 1 April 1899), but offering an estimate of the man.

"Mr. Fox's success in professional life was largely due to his own efforts. He enjoyed none of the advantages that are provided to students of the present generation.

He had no other equipment than the courage and determination of youth, and with those weapons began life's battle. Deceased was looked upon as an able attorney and possessed oratorical ability that was far above the ordinary. He came with the pioneers, at a time when the law and order element of California was largely in the minority and as an officer participated in many of the stirring events that marked the early history of the county. Of these he retained a recollection accurate to date and detail, and when humored into a reminiscent mood proved a raconteur whose fund of narrative seemed inexhaustible. Mr. Fox was not only an eloquent speaker and entertaining narrator, but as a writer he possessed those elements that would have distinguished him had he cast his lot in the field of literature. Many of the articles in the local journals concerning the county residents whom death had called away were written by him, and in those anonymous thoughts of former companions he showed a vein of pathos that might not have been accredited to him. If in life he felt some of the sorrow to which humanity is heir, he profited therefrom, and more than one will recall his advice and admonition, often kindly given, to seek higher aims and shun those habits that lead to the garnering of thorns and thistles in the end. Perhaps some have led better lives through his counsel, and now that he is gone will recall his words as a benediction."

When the fact of his death was made known the flags about town were placed at half-mast in respect to his memory. The obituary is titled "His Weary Heart at Rest."

The Day Books also carry their own small mystery. Those that I have in my possession are all headed, on the first day of each year, with two Latin words: NIL DESPERANDUM. And on the first page a poem has been carefully copied, as if it had a very deep meaning to the writer. There is no author's name given.

"Time at last sets all things even,
And, if we do but watch the hour,
There never yet was human power
That could evade - if unforgiven -
The patient faith, the vigil long
Of him that treasures up a wrong."

GEORGE W. FOX lived much of his life in the shadow of a brilliant older brother. It is perhaps revealing that in his references to this brother he uses first 'Brother Charley,' later 'Charles,' and after the appointment to the State Supreme Court, 'Charles N. Fox.'

SARAH DONALD FOX was a tiny, very pretty woman with red hair and a temperament to match it, whom he married when she was just eighteen, and she undoubtedly led him a merry chase. When she was a very old lady she talked to her then twenty-year-old granddaughter about her youth. A strict and suspicious father had placed her under restrictions that were totally unacceptable to young Sarah. When she eloped to San Francisco with George it was at least in part to escape from them. Proud of her hair, she flatly refused to don the cap that all married women were in the habit of wearing, and wore long ringlets over her shoulder until she was thirty-five. She was a good wife and mother; her children revered her; but to the very last she remained fiercely an individual, and it is impossible to believe that she gave her husband a great deal of comfort. She outlived him by thirty-seven years and when she died in 1936 at the age of eighty-nine she was in her own way a little First Lady!

GEORGE W. FOX was buried in Redwood City's Union Cemetery, but at the time of SARAH DONALD FOX'S death his remains, Parker's and those of their infant children were removed and placed with hers in the Mausoleum at Cypress Lawn Cemetery in Colma, California.

All of the children died in Redwood City. Parker, SARAH'S favorite, died from a head injury incurred when

he was pushed from a railing in front of the hotel by an older boy; his few small possessions were preserved for a long time in his mother's trunk. Claude was considered a brilliant boy, but his talents were diffuse; he had a gift for friendships and they were interesting ones, particularly that with the California writer Jack London and his wife Charmian. Zoe married a young southerner descended from the Patrick Henry family of Virginia who became a lawyer and died at the beginning of what promised to be a fine career. There is an informative obituary that was written by S. P. McCrea in The Mercury. Ethel Fox married a young German from Schleswig-Holstein who became an importer and processor of exotic fruits in San Francisco. Bee worked as a court reporter and for the District Attorney for some time before marrying Charles Lyon Dimmitt of Kentucky and Texas.

The line of direct descent (male) in our branch of the Fox family ended with Claudius Fox, whose children were both daughters.

Descendants of the children of GEORGE W. FOX:

<u>Claude Fox</u>	m.	<u>Harriet Bement</u>
1 Lavina Fox (1892-))	2 Harriet Fox (1894-1980)
m.		m.
Oscar Sahlberg		Charles W. Sahlberg
1 Gene Edith	b. 19 March 1914	1 Avern
m. E. S. Clemans		b. 29 Sept. 1916
2 Muriel Harriet		m. Kenneth Hinchman
b. 5 Oct. 1915		2 Mary Elizabeth
m. George Marchais		b. 20 Sept. 1919
3 Dorothy June	b. 3 June 1919	m. Russell Johnson
4 Alfred Claude		3 Charles Ross
b. 2 August 1929		b. 27 May 1927
d. 21 November 1953		m. Liliias Ray (?)
<u>Zoe Fox</u>	m.	<u>Fayette Henry Thorpe</u>
1 Fay Thorpe (1896 -))	2 Winthrop Henry (1901 -)
m. Charles L. Huyck		m. Evelyn Whitfield

- 1 Mary Evelyn
b. 4 Dec. 1930
(Sister Julie Marie,
Order of Notre Dame)
- 2 Jane Ann b. 10 May 1933
d. 10 Dec. 1933
- 3 George Whitfield
b. 28 Sept. 1937
m. Clare Poore
- 4 Winifred Jane
b. 26 Jan. 1940
m. Daniel Jurenko (divorced)

Beatrice (Bee) Fox m. Charles Lyon Dimmitt

- 1 June Lee Dimmitt b. 9 June 1916
m. Neil Turpin Houston

- 1 Neil Dimmitt Houston
b. 18 April 1946
m. Karin Liebhold (divorced)

Nicholas Martin Houston

m. (2) Julia E. Terry

- 2 Sarah Christine Houston
b. 2 December 1951

THE FAMILY OF ELIZABETH CRANE FOX

THE MOTHER OF GEORGE W. FOX



43
44

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THE CRANE FAMILY

On April 30, 1884, an obituary of Elizabeth Crane Fox appeared in the Oakland Tribune in Oakland, California. The mother of George W. Fox and Charles N. Fox passed her days in one or the other of her sons' homes, and was with Charles and his family in Oakland at the time of her death. Her funeral and burial took place in Redwood City, where she was buried beside her husband in the Union Cemetery.

The obituary refers to her as 'one of the pioneer women of California, as well as of Michigan.' It goes on to say that Mrs. Fox, the widow of the first judge of San Mateo County, was widely known and highly esteemed. 'Until she reached an advanced age she was always a strong and healthy woman, with a heart that went out in sympathy to every one in distress, and besides attending faithfully to the cares of a large family, very much of her time was spent in ministering to the sick and afflicted. For some years past her system had been gradually breaking down, and at last, after a long but almost painless illness, the heart yielded to age and debility and ceased to beat.' During her declining years she had been tenderly cared for by her sons and their faithful wives---her own daughters living at too great a distance to give her their personal attention. She left surviving four sons: Charles N. 'of this city,' Benjamin F. Jr., a captain of cavalry in the late war, now resident in Texas, George W., a leading attorney of San Mateo County, and Chester P., of San Francisco; also, two daughters, Mrs. A. J. Quigley of Plumas County, and Mrs. Samuel Palmer of Monterey County. She was a sister of the Honorable A. D. Crane lately Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Michigan, who also survived her.

In researching the Cranes in New Jersey another brother and a sister appeared, and both seem to have migrated from New York to Michigan, as Betsey did. These were: Joanna, b. 1 March 1805; d. 10 July 1868, at Lima, Michigan; Martin L. b. 22 February 1812. There is a reference in a Crane genealogy to information given by a daughter of Martin L. Crane, but we have not followed up on this family. About Joanna we know only her birth and death dates and location; whether she ever married we do not know.

Alexander Dallas Crane was the brother mentioned in Betsey's obituaries, and because of the many positions he held during his lifetime he appears in various biographical records. He was born 5 October 1809 in either Mentz or Montezuma, Cayuga County, New York. Mentz, Montezuma, Throop and Port Bryon---all mentioned in the Crane Family Genealogy---are contiguous on the map of the area sent me from the County Clerk's office, Auburn, New York. Over the years township boundaries have changed, and names along with them.

Alexander D. Crane arrived in Michigan in 1827, the same year as the young Benjamin Foxes. In 1832 he began the study of law, served as Constable, Deputy Sheriff and Collector of Taxes, and was admitted to the bar in 1843. In 1849 he was appointed postmaster of Dexter, Michigan, by President Fillmore, and was also Justice of the Peace. Between 1854 and 1865 he was the prosecuting attorney for Washtenaw County, and was four times Circuit Judge. In 1873 he was Judge of the 4th Judicial District of Michigan, and was in private practice in Ann Arbor with A. J. Sawyer. He was a Colonel of the 7th Regiment 4th Brigade 2nd Division of the Michigan State Militia under Governor S. T. Mason. Alexander D. Crane was married three times, to 1) Nancy Smith 2) Julia Tipping 3) Helen Palmer. He had children, but their lines have not been followed.

Elizabeth, who seems to have always been called Betsey, was born on 12 July 1807 in the village of Mentz,

Cayuga County, New York. This is a pretty and still rural part of upper New York State. She was the second child and second daughter of STEPHEN CRANE and KATURAH TOPPING, both natives of Hanover Township, Morris County, New Jersey.

KATURAH (also spelled Keturah) Topping (also Tappen in the list of Hanover rateables) was the daughter of Simon H. and Mary Topping who left New Jersey for New York at the turn of the century. No record of the marriage of KATURAH and STEPHEN CRANE has turned up in the registers of Presbyterean churches in Morris County, so it is probable that the ceremony took place in New York where no official records were yet being kept.

KATURAH was born in Hanover, Morris County, New Jersey, on 2 July 1786, married 5 April 1804, and died 5 March 1824. She was buried at Montezuma, Cayuga County, according to report, but no stone for her has been found.

STEPHEN CRANE was also born in Hanover, on 1 June 1781, and died at Mentz, Cayuga County, New York, on 19 June 1813. According to the Genealogy, he had a brother Daniel who lived in Port Byron and is thought to have died near Lansing, Michigan, circa 1840.

Many of the Cranes migrated to New York in the late 1700's and early 1800's, including Ezekiel Crane, who was the founder of Mentz: Ezekiel and his wife Eunice and their daughters were buried there; his sons, however, went to Michigan in the early days. Ezekiel Crane's family assumes importance for our particular line of Cranes because of a mystery so far unsolved.

In 1900 a very thorough Genealogy of the Crane Family was prepared by Ellery Bicknell Crane, covering the descendants of Benjamin Crane (Wethersfield, Connecticut) and John Crane (Coventry, Connecticut) also of JASPER CRANE of New Haven, Connecticut and Newark, New Jersey, and Stephen Crane of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, with families of the name in New Hampshire, Maryland and Virginia. In

Volume II of the genealogy, page 330, there is the paragraph:

"437. As the brothers whose names are given below were cousins of the above Shadrack Crane, we give here what we have been able to obtain concerning their descendants. The name of their father seems not to have been made clear. Whether it was Stephen or John (uncles to Shadrack) we do not know, although that would seem probable, or it may have been Aaron. Alexander Dallas Crane gave the latter as his grandfather's name, and at the same time said his own father Stephen was cousin to Shadrack Crane who married Hannah Palmer." Shadrack Crane was the son of Ezekiel, and since the cousinship seems to be generally recognized, the father of our STEPHEN CRANE would have to be one of Ezekiel's brothers. These were: Stephen (1735-), Asai (1737-1737), Josiah (1745-), John (1749-c.1790), James (1754-), David (1756-), and Benonie (1761-).

Because of the repeated appearance of family Christian names, it has been literally impossible to be sure which man was STEPHEN'S father. I have read records from Morristown, Hanover, Whippany and Parsippany, New Jersey, and none are definitive. In correspondence from Cayuga County, New York, the County Historian suggests that, after consulting census data, he believes it to have been Stephen---or John---or Aaron? However, Stephen went to Goshen, New York and John was disabled in the Revolution and took his son with him to a farm near Canisteer, New York, where he lived as a virtual recluse until his death. There are a number of Aarons through the Crane family, and one who died in 1813, the same year as our STEPHEN, lived in Mentz and in the 1800 census was listed as having a male of 16-26 years living in his household; this would be an appropriate age for STEPHEN.

I would be willing to accept AARON as our ancestor then, except for this confusing addition to the paragraph from the Genealogy quoted above:

"A daughter of Martin L. Crane writes: 'Aaron was half-brother to Stephen, I think. I never heard his name mentioned in connection with the Cranes but once or twice, and when I asked my father who Aaron was, he said to me he was 'an odd sheep' and they never paid much attention to him. That is all I know of the said Aaron'."

This strikes me as unreliable hearsay, since Martin L. Crane was one year old at the time of the deaths of both his father Stephen and the Aaron Crane who lived in Mentz. Therefore, the 'odd sheep' story doesn't hold up, unless there was another (half) brother in STEPHEN'S generation who was never listed in any record, or remembered by Alexander D. Crane, who appears to be a more reliable authority than the younger Martin.

Because of this confusion it seems advisable to give the general information available on the earlier generations of Cranes and leave the genealogies to be studied further.

According to family legend, two brothers came from England to Connecticut, one spelling his name CRANE (our line), the other Craine. In Passenger Lists, New England, by Carl Boyer (Yale University Press, 1934), pp 29-31, JASPER CRANE is noted as having accompanied John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton to the New Haven Colony by way of Boston in 1637/38. The ship was the "Hector," and they were London Puritans. His name appears in the Churchwardens' Records of the colony, and from 1668 - 1674 he was a member of the General Association in Newark. JASPER CRANE appears to have travelled to England for his family and to have returned with them on the "Arbella," 26 April 1639. He was a surveyor and land agent, and in 1640 was acting for 'Mr. Rowe of London' in Boston, originally Shawmut. In June of 1639 he signed the first New Haven agreement at a general meeting at a Mr. Newman's barn. He took the Oath of Fidelity with the first settlers Canfield, Pennington, Eaton et al. With Robert Treat he

was a member of the General Court and a magistrate for many years in the Colony.

We know that JASPER had an interest in a bog-iron furnace at East Haven in 1651, and that he removed to Branford in the Passaic lands as captain of a group of twenty-three families. In Milford (later Newark) he owned a lot north of the Essex County Court House, now the site of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

JASPER CRANE left a will dated 1678 at Newark, which was proved in 1681. There was a widow named Alice, possibly a second wife, either a brother or a son named Stephen of Elizabethtown, and children John (1635-1694), Newark; Delivered, or Deliverance (12 July 1642-), New Haven; Mercy, or Mary (1645-1611), married Jonathon Bell of Stamford, Connecticut; Micah (1647-); 'Deacon' Azariah (1649-1730), Newark, married Mary Treat, daughter of Captain Robert; Jasper (1651-1712), Newark; and Hannah who married 1) Thomas Huntingdon and 2) John Ward Sr., New Haven.

JASPER was the son of General JOSIAH CRANE of Cheshire,* England, who had been rewarded with an estate and a coat of arms for service to James I of England. Other descendants of General JOSIAH went to the North of Ireland and to Germany.

If we predicate our descent on the basis of the acknowledged relationship of our STEPHEN CRANE and Shadrach Crane of Hanover, New Jersey, and later Mentz, New York, the line would continue with JASPER CRANE'S son JOHN CRANE who was born in 1635 in England, arrived in the New Haven Colony on the "Arabella" in 1639; married ELIZABETH FOOTE of Westerfield, Connecticut (second marriage to Hannah _____) and died in 1694 in Newark. His children were:

*Another source gives Spaxton, Somersetshire.

1	JOHN	b. 1671	d. 22 February 1739
		m. Mary_____	Whippany, New Jersey
2	Jasper	b. 1679	d. 1749
3	Daniel	b. 1684	d. 8 September 1747
4	Sarah	b.	d.

1 JOHN CRANE and his wife MARY had the following children:

1	John	b.	d.
2	EDMUND	b. 1692	d.
		m. ABIGAIL KITCHELL	
3	Amos	b.	d.
		m. Elizabeth_____	Whippany, New Jersey
4	Mary	b.	d.
		m. _____Hamilton	
5	Abigail	b.	d.
		m. Stephen Ward	
6	Kesiah	b.	d.
		m. _____Canfield	
7	Stephen	b. 19 August 1708	d. 30 May 1732 Whippany, New Jersey

2 EDMUND CRANE and his wife ABIGAIL KITCHELL had the following children:

1	Stephen	b. 23 June 1735	d. _____ Elizabethtown, New Jersey
2	Asai	b. 4 June 1737	d. 18 Nov. 1737 Whippany, New Jersey
3	Eunice	b. 15 Sept. 1738	d.
4	Affie	b. 15 July 1740	d.
5	Phoebe	b. 13 April 1743	d.
		m. Isaac Person (or Pierson), 1759	
6	Josiah	b. 25 June 1745	d. 1822, Orange County, New York
		m. Abigail Hathaway, 1786	
7	Ezkiel	b. 29 Oct. 1747	d. 15 March 1813
		m. Eunice Hayward, 1770	Mentz, New York
8	John	b. 24 Jan. 1749	d. 1790, at
		m. Mary O'Harah	Canisteer, New York
9	Abigail	b. 28 May 1752	d.

- 10 James b. 27 July 1754 d.
11 David b. 24 Dec. 1756 d.
 (had a son named
 Aaron)
12 Benonie b. 27 June 1761 d.

If child number 7, Ezekiel, was an uncle of our .
STEPHEN CRANE, there is good evidence to believe that two
other sons of EDMUND existed, one of whom was AARON.
After rereading all that the genealogies have to say, I
am willing to accept the fact that if STEPHEN CRANE said
his father was AARON CRANE, he should know! Therefore,
I also believe that this was the AARON CRANE who died in
Mentz, Cayuga County, New York, the same year as his son
STEPHEN, 1813.

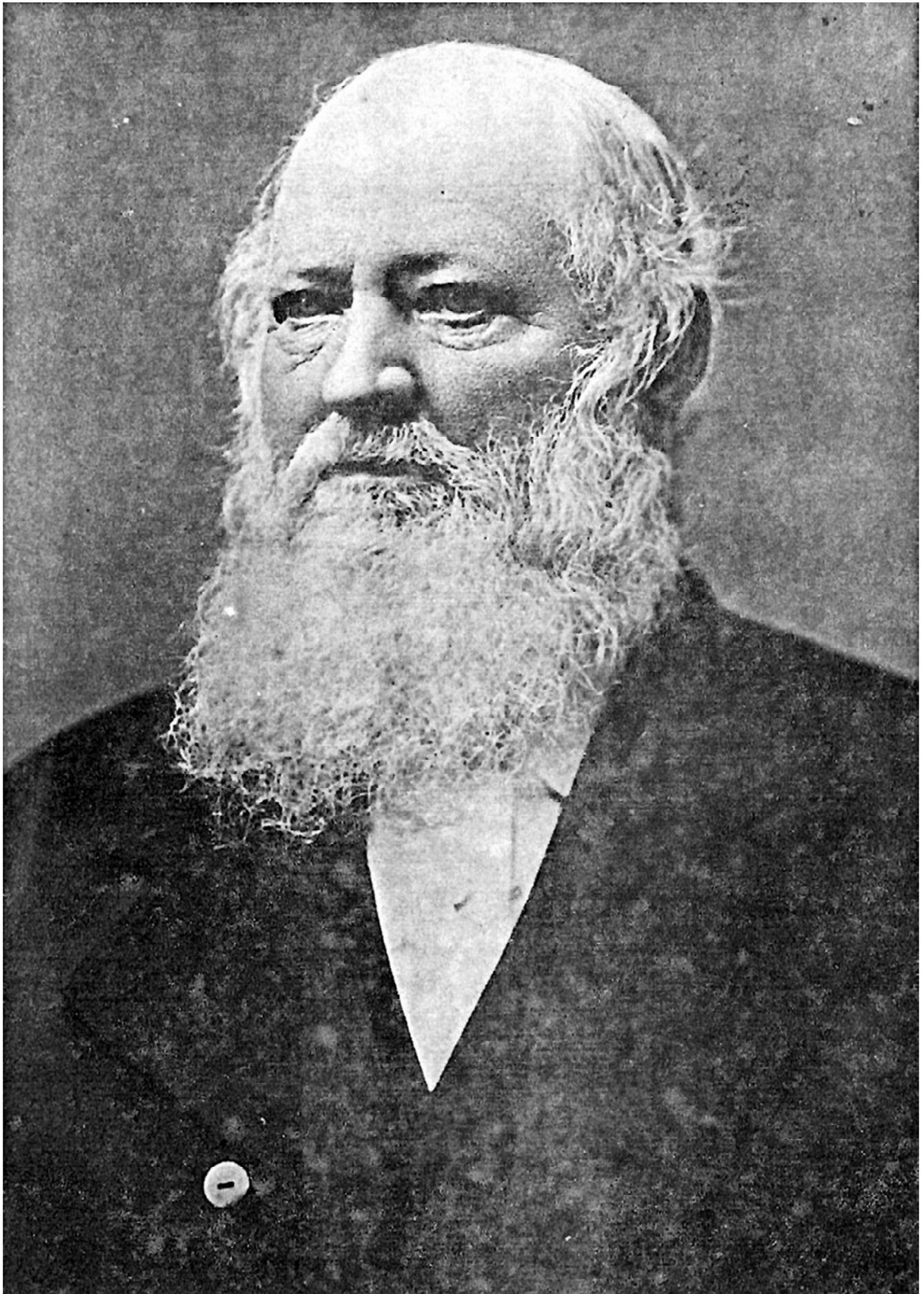
ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 Elizabeth (Betsey) Crane Fox (1807-1884)
- 2 Benjamin F. Fox (1805-1869)
- 3 Charles N. Fox (1829-1904)
- 4 Samuel and Nancy Fox Palmer (1834-1923)
- 5 George Winthrop Fox (1838-1899)
- 6 Chester (Chet) Fox (1840-1885)
- 7 Site of Little Grass Valley near La Porte, Plumas
County, California
- 8 Benjamin F. and Betsey Crane Fox stone leaning
against Charles N. Fox stone, old Union Cemetery,
Redwood City, California
- 9 Charles N. Fox stones, Union Cemetery
- 10 Andrew Jackson Quigley and Sarah Elizabeth Quigley
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- 11 Marriage License of George W. Fox and Sarah T.
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- 12 Wedding day picture of George and Sarah Donald Fox
- 13 George W. Fox ca 1870
- 14 Sarah Donald Fox ca 1870
- 15 Claude Fox (1867-1956)
- 16 Beatrice (Bee) Fox, Ethel Fox and friend (James
Van Court Photo)
- 17 Visiting card (at home Thursdays)
- 18 Sarah Fox ca 1880
- 19 Parker Fox (1868-1875)
- 20 Bee Fox, friend, Ethel Fox (James Van Court Photo)
- 21 Kitty Crowe, Alice Crowe, Ethel Fox, Lottie Wentworth,
Bee Fox, _____ (James Van Court Photo)

- 22 Pauline Hansen, Bee Fox (with doll), Laura Hansen, Ethel Fox, Viola Hansen, in garden of the Hansen house on Main Street, Redwood City, California (James Van Court Photo)
- 23 Ethel Fox at 15
- 24 Bee Fox at 15
- 25 Ethel Fox Otzen, Bee Fox Dimmitt, Zoe Fox Thorpe at Pomins', Lake Tahoe, ca 1914
- 26 Fay, Zoe and Bud Thorpe
- 27 Stage to La Honda
- 28 Winthrop Henry Thorpe
- 29 Old stage coach stop which became the home of the George W. Foxes and later the home of Zoe Thorpe
- 30 Sarah Fox, June Dimmitt, Bee Fox Dimmitt on the steps of the Sarah Fox house which stood on the corner of Phelps Street (now Middlefield Road) and Stambaugh Street, Redwood City
- 31 Sarah Donald Fox at eighty, 1926



Elizabeth (Betsey) Crane Fox (1807-1884)



Benjamin F. Fox (1805-1869)



Charles N. Fox (1829-1904)



Samuel & Nancy Fox Palmer (1834-1923)



IMPERIAL GALLERY, 724 1/2 Market St., S. F.

George Winthrop Fox (1838-1899)



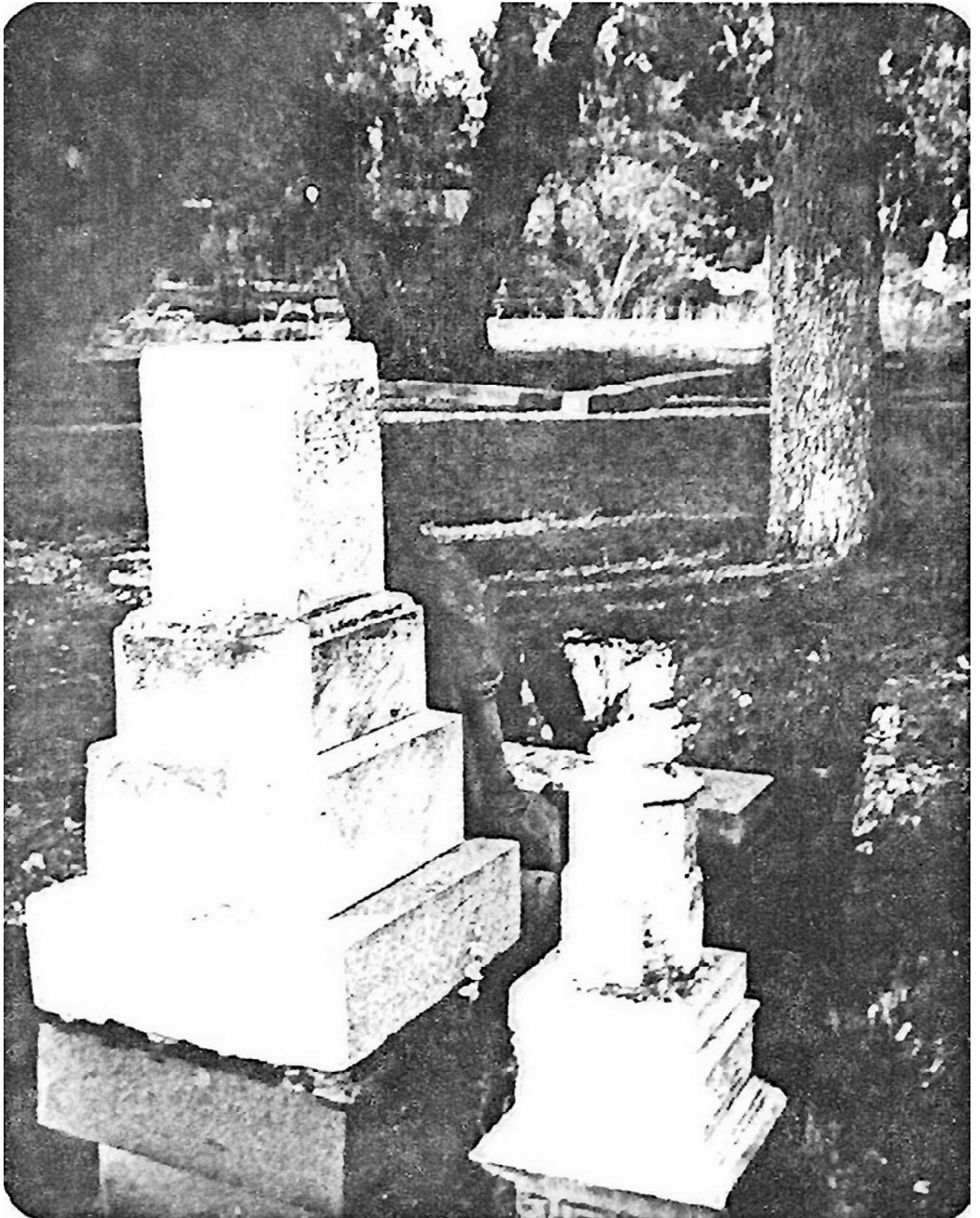
Chester (Chet) Fox (1840-1885)



Site of Little Grass Valley near La Porte, Plumas Co., CA



Benjamin F. & Betsey Crane Fox Stone, Old Union Cemetery, Redwood City, CA



Charles N. Fox Stones, Union Cemetery



Andrew Jackson & Sarah Elizabeth Quigley Stone, La Porte Cemetery

Marriage License.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

COUNTY OF *San Mateo*

I do hereby authorize any Judge, Justice of the Peace, Clergyman or
Preacher of the Gospel to celebrate and certify the Marriage of

George W. Fox

with

Sarah T. Donald

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand and Official Seal this *First*
day of *July* 186*4*

Thomas W. H. County Clerk.



Marriage Certificate.

I certify that in pursuance of the above License
George W. Fox and *Sarah T. Donald*
were by me this day united in matrimony on the
Tenth day of *July* A. D. 186*4*

G. A. Easton



Wedding Day Picture of George W. Fox & Sarah Donald Fox



George W. Fox; abt. 1880



Sarah Donald Fox; abt. 1870



Claude Fox (1867-1956)



Beatrice (Bee) Fox, Ethel Fox & Friend

Mr. Sarah J. Fox.

Thursdays.

Visiting Card (at home Thursdays)



Sarah Fox; abt. 1880



Parker Fox (1868-1875)



Bee Fox, Friend, Ethel Fox



Kitty Crowe, Alice Crowe, Ethel Fox, Lottie Wentworth, Bee Fox, _____



Pauline Hansen, Bee Fox (w/ doll), Laura Hansen, Ethel Fox, Viola Hansen; Redwood City, CA



Ethel Fox at 15



Bee Fox at 15



Ethel Fox Otzen, Bee Fox Dimmitt, Zoe Fox Thorpe at Pomin's, Lake Tahoe; abt. 1914



Fay, Zoe & Bud Thorpe



Stage to La Honda



Vote For



WINTHROP H. "Bud"

THORPE

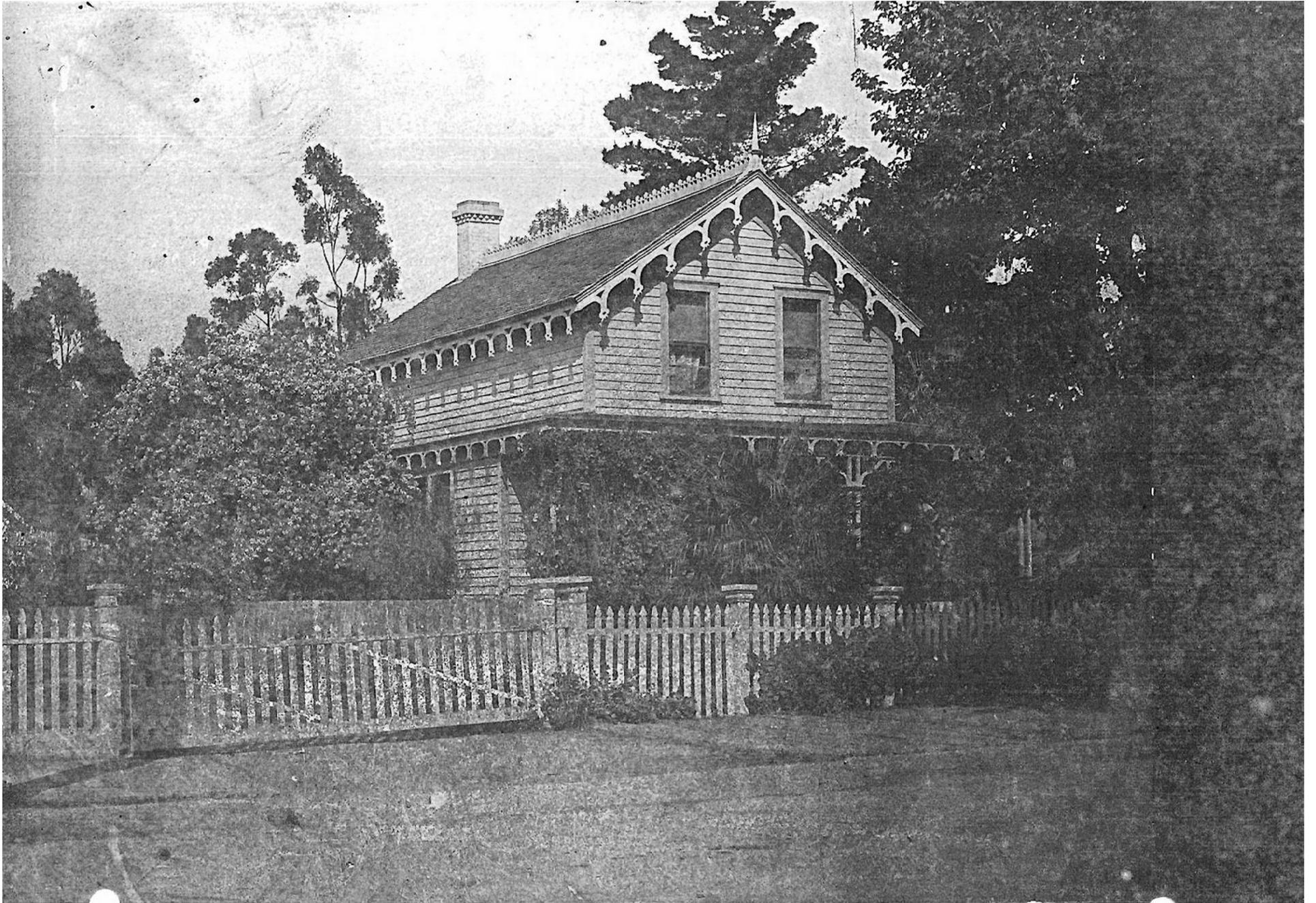
Municipal Judge

SOUTHERN JUDICIAL DISTRICT
SAN MATEO COUNTY

Election — Tuesday, June 3, 1952.

QUALIFIED THROUGH EXPERIENCE AS
JUDGE - DEP. DIST. ATTY. - POLICE OFFICER - ATTORNEY

Winthrop Henry Thorpe



Old Stage Stop; became the home of George W. Foxes & later Zoe Thorpe



Sarah Fox, June Dimmitt, Bee Fox Dimmitt on the steps of the Sarah Fox house; Redwood City, CA



Sarah Donald Fox