

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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William F. Notley at age 25 with his wife Carrie and stepson Austin.

WILLIAM F. NOTLEY: EARLY CALIFORNIAN

by Anne F. Verdi

Ed. Note:

South from Carmel, just beyond Rocky Point, there was in the 1890s a thriving shipping point for tanbark and redwood timber which was called Notley's Landing. Two brothers established the community and settled there – George and William Notley. Recently a great granddaughter of William Notley has shared with us a paper she wrote from the memories of her grandmother and great-aunt. The life of the Notley family in Monterey and Humboldt counties was typical of the coastal families that drew from the forests wood, tanbark, and railroad ties for shipment to San Francisco.

According to my grandmother it was 1868, although 1861 is probably closer, that William Franklin Notley was born in St. Louis, Missouri. When he was four years old his family moved to the Gulf port down the Mississippi river. Some time later they moved again, this time all the way to San Francisco.

They must have traveled by boat to the Isthmus of Panama. There they crossed by land and went, again by sea, to San Francisco. There William's father built a flour mill.

When William Notley was about 10 the family built a homestead in Boulder Creek. Ten years later Notley went to the Mohave desert to Barstow where he drove a 20-mule team. It was also there that he met and married Carrie Adelia Shelley Roberts, widow of his cousin. Carrie was several years older than William and had a son by her previous marriage, Austin.

About 1890 William and his brother, George, started a ship loading operation as the Notley Brothers Inc. on the cliff along the southern California Coast. The site is still named Notley's Landing. . . . Boats lying at anchor beyond the breakers were loaded by a steel winch and cable which carried redwood, tanbark, and shingles.

There was a town associated with the landing. It was a boom town and thriving timber post. Stories are still remembered that the old timers told of the dances which were held there.

Later the landing would be used for smuggling in Chinese to San Francisco and still later for bootleggers during prohibition.

While the landing was in operation, Carrie gave birth to 7 children; Dorothy, Oscar, Florence, William, John, Francis, and Godfrey.

About 1902 William went to Humboldt County to survey and estimate the tanoak timber on the Shelter Cove Ranch for a tannery in Santa Cruz. He must have been impressed with what he saw because later he bought a portion of the ranch from the Bank of Fort Bragg.

The family traveled by rail and boat. The first night they stayed in the old Del Monte Hotel in Monterey. Florance (my grandmother and Notley's daughter) remembers how the people in the dining room stared and counted the eight children (including Carrie's son, Austin) and the dog as they trooped in.

From Monterey the family traveled by boat to San Francisco, then by steamer to Shelter Cove. The trip took four days and three nights to complete and their progress was slowed by a sailboat that the steamer was pulling for some reason. Florance and her sister, Dorothy tell of how sick they all were . . .

After the difficult trip the family was disappointed to be met by empty land and sea with no town in sight.

At first Notley owned and operated the Shelter Cove Wharf and Warehouse Company which I suppose was patterned after Notley's Landing. This later developed into the main shipping point for merchandise coming into and leaving southern Humboldt County. They also ran a general merchandise store. Wood, tanbark, and railroad ties came by pack train and six-horse wagon loads to be shipped to San Francisco from the long wharf where ships tied up at the cove.

Occasionally, likely whenever he got the chance, Notley bought adjoining land until he had accumulated about 6000 acres.

Steamers came in about once a week bearing supplies and groceries. The steamers also had accommodation for three or four passengers. While they were usually fairly reliable, one year the family had Christmas in the summer because something happened to the steamer.

The ranch was operated as a dairy ranch when Notley first came although later he got rid of the cows. Hay was raised to supply up to forty horses which were occasionally kept there overnight. There were also accommodations for the men in a portion of the Notley dwelling.

For a number of years the ranch was used for raising beef. From beef he changed to sheep, even though there were a few dairy cows still kept on.

A story is told and gleefully re-told in the family of the time one of the sheep wandered into the ocean and was struggling in the surf when Dorothy's husband came dashing up on his horse and dived into the ocean after the struggling animal. Cursing a blue streak he grabbed the sheep, and hauled it out. This is no mean feat when you consider the weight of all that wet wool. Then he threw the sheep over his saddle and took it home. The Notley men of the family, from stories of the grandchildren, stood one thousand feet tall and could move mountains at will.

Overland travel to Garberville or Fortuna was by horse and buggy or stagecoach. Carrie Notley brought from Boulder Creek a little four-seater open buggy and two trotting horses, a bay and a dark brown.

During Dorothy and Florances' teen years they attended dances in Briceland on Saturday nights. Usually they went by horse and buggy. Later they traveled in the Stutz Bearcat which "burned up the roads and left a great cloud of dust behind."

There was a small post office of which Carrie was post mistress. Mail arrived twice a week by horseback or buggy.

There were not very many neighbors. Some white families and young people from Petrolia, north along the coast, would come to spend weekends and visit. Sometimes other Notleys went or brought their families to the ranch. The Thomas family and their seven children were their closest friends. They lived in Briceland . . .

An invention of Notley's own was installed on the ranch. To collect gold carried by the tide, a long sectioned wooden trough was set into the beach. When the surf rolled in, the water ran over this trough and then returned down the beach, leaving a good deal of silt. As the water rushed back along the trough, it washed its own leavings in the little "steps" of the structure, hopefully leaving a little gold.

A few garden vegetables were raised in the well adapted soil. There were also berries and an orchard which produced much fruit.

There was abundant salmon, abalone, and venison available. Trout ran plentifully in the streams. To supplement these the Nottleys had a little beef, a few hogs, and a flock of chickens. A considerable amount of fresh meat was sold to the neighbors. Ham and bacon was smoked and salted for future consumption. Fruit and vegetables were canned.

For several years, while the children were small, a Mexican cook, John, cooked and baked for the family and help. He was a wonderful cook and he made delicious bread and hot rolls. He also made great Mexican food. He would sliver potatoes, like french fries, roll them in corn meal and deep fry them.

Dorothy remembers he subscribed to magazines for her for a Christmas present. He was like one of the family. He also tended to the baby, Anne, born on the ranch.

Clothes were ordered from catalogues. Among these were Weinstock and Lubin in New York City. Also, they had suits made somewhere. Carrie sewed a lot. She made all their "undies". They wore chemises. They were made of what they called "Nainsook". The girls sat and embroidered the edges.

Clothes were washed on the "washing machine" on the back porch of the first ranch house. The machine was a wooden tub with a center wooden dasher with cleats and fins on it. When it was hooked up to the water a pulley mechanism rotated the tub and dasher back and forth in opposite directions. A hand-operated wringer prepared clothes for hanging on the line. "Sad irons" made of heavy iron were heated on the stove and rotated in use as they cooled.

Walter, a little Indian boy, lived with them a few years in order to go to school. Notley made him suits with little button-down collars.

Their first teacher was a graduate of San Jose Normal School and kept their books besides teaching and lived with the family.

When William hired anyone to work he tried to get a man with a family in order to keep enough children in school to be able to qualify the hiring of a teacher.

At first school was held in a room of the ranch house until a one-room building under the gum trees was built. This was an elementary school and one teacher taught all grades, one through eight. She boarded with the family. One of these teachers, Bessie Rutledge, married Notley's stepson, Austin.

In 1911 a terrible fire started in the house. It was thought that it was started by a coal oil lamp left lighted in a low kitchen window. It was New Years Eve and Notley was playing his violin. Although no one was hurt, the house burned to the ground destroying such irreplaceable relics as a civil war powder horn. All that was saved was a piano . . .

The family moved to a bunk house Notley renovated until he built a new stucco and timber house which still stands. It had six rooms downstairs including a large living room with a rock fireplace and a dining room which views the ocean. There was also a large kitchen and three bedrooms downstairs. Upstairs were four bedrooms, one the width of the house for the boys. There were front and back porches. That back porch had a long sink at which the ranch hands washed up before meals. The adjoining bathroom had a six-foot bathtub and in a separate room a toilet with a pull chain. Two of the downstairs bedrooms opened onto porches and usually housed hired hands. While no mention of this was made to me, a visit to the house

almost ten years ago showed the house to be a children's paradise. The house was solid as a rock, with a massive staircase leading upstairs. This was worn very, very smooth indeed along what must be the greatest sliding banister I've ever seen. The railing was perhaps eight inches across. While the house would never be called dainty, it exuded a happy warmth.

Water on the ranch was supplied by a spring located in a draw in the hills beyond the ranch house. It was stored in a large redwood tank at the base of the spring and then flowed by a metal pipe to the ranch buildings. The vegetables were watered a little in the summer.

Heat was mostly supplied by the centrally located fireplace plus the large wood-burning kitchen stove in an interior corner of the kitchen. Water was heated in a tank alongside the stove by pipes running through the firebox. The original ranch had had a wood-burning stove in the parlor.

Also in the old house were hanging kerosene lamps, wall lamps, and standing lamps to provide light. It was presumably one of these which had started the fire. They burned a circular rather than a straight wick. Each day all lamps had to have the glass chimneys cleaned and the wicks trimmed of accumulated carbon. In later years a carbide system with copper pipes and built-in fixtures with a storage tank located behind the yards was installed.

Dorothy recalls the beautiful hanging kerosene lamp that hung over the dining table; a great brass bowl with an embossed rim and special wicks. It hung by a brass frame and chain which raised and lowered by a pulley.

William Notley worked long after normal retirement age, although no date is available. Forty acres bordering the cove were sold to Mrs. Bowden and Wagner about 1920. Some ten years later they sold it to a still existant San Francisco fish company, Paladini and Alioto. Later it was sold again to the Macchi brothers, the present owners who operate a restaurant and trailer park.

The bulk of the ranch was sold for \$50,000.00 to Keith Etter who operated it as a sheep ranch for about ten years and then resold it for \$100,000.00 to a group of developers from Los Angeles who had big ideas and turned it into a super home development attracting buyers mostly from the L.A. area. They laid out lots, paved streets, installed underground utility wires, sewers, and air strip and planned a golf club. Then they went bankrupt. The fights over the bonds are said to be still continuing.

When Notley sold he divided the money equally among his nine children and four grandsons and moved to Eureka where both he and Carrie died. Carrie's death preceded his by two years. She died in 1949 at the age of 90 years. Notley died in 1951 at the age of 88.

After retiring his hobby was making and repairing violins. He also took great interest in gardening. He owned a famous violin made by Antonio Stradivani which he bequeathed to his grandson.

A grand old man, his death was mourned by many — not only those he had known but those he had fathered. At the time of his death William Notley had seen eight children, ten grandchildren, and sixteen great grandchildren born. Today that number has swollen to include another generation and totals some seventy-one descendants, proper lineage for a fine old man.



A BIT OF NOSTALGIA

Recently we received a letter requesting information from an elderly gentleman of Walnut Creek, and our reply brought forth a letter recounting his memories of Monterey and Carmel Valley seventy years ago.

"Receiving a letter from Carmel Valley brought back many nostalgic thoughts of the Beautiful Valley I knew so well about 70 years ago. My father was a great hunter and had a hunting lodge on the Bloomquist Ranch near Jamesburg. It was known as Casa Verde and located in Amola Canyon. I used to know all the ranchers in the Valley starting with Frank Hatton, Wolters, Berwick, Nicolay, Tomasini — the Chupinos and Tularcitos Rancho, Snively, Whitlocks and many others. The Tularcitos ranch was 12000 acres operated by Bob Johnson who was Mayor of Monterey at the time.

The Carmel River was at that time a beautiful trout stream. All you had to do was throw in your line and you would get a beautiful rainbow trout. Those were great days.

Juanita Johnson was in my class at the San Carlos school in Monterey. Frank Hatton also attended the school. Some day I hope to be able to — (be in Carmel and —)"

Our correspondent also sent us some notes he wrote.

"Where white sand sparkles in the sun I pause to ponder when day is done. Soft breeze floats in from the sea and white caps seem to beckon me in Monterey. White face cattle browse at will as I gaze upon a hill. I see the golden poppies too and the lupin ever blue. For those who sorrow and are sad such serenity makes them glad and the mellow sound of mission bells all thought of sadness does dispel. The sound of doves in the trees above all add to the tranquil look. The graceful pines and sturdy oaks and a silver babbling brook.

I used to hear the meadow larks in the morning cool as I walked the dusty country road upon my way to school. The tule lake and willow trees — so many things to see. Today I walked the same old road. It was not the same to me or did I hear the meadow larks that used to be. The road was paved and changes made — the progress of the day. Of course we know that old things go and progress comes to stay. But I still wish that it was the same old Monterey."

Raymond Crummy

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The annual membership meeting has been scheduled for Oct. 29th, 1974 at the Elk's Club in Monterey. A social time and dinner will precede the formal meeting. Members will shortly receive the notice of the meeting from the Secretary as required by the By-Laws.

This will be an evening of friendship, happy reports of progress this past year and bits of "What's to Come?" New members will be nominated and elected for the Board of Directors.

A second general membership meeting will be called within a month after the annual meeting to consider revision of the By-Laws. During the past year Mrs. Ed Bliss has been chairman of a committee that has developed simplified, and more workable, set of By-Laws. They have been reviewed by the Board of Directors and will be mailed with the notice of the second called meeting.

COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

CASA AMESTI: The Board of Directors has authorized a committee of volunteers from our membership to act as hostesses at Casa Amesti during a limited number of hours — hopefully on Saturdays and Sundays. This is a move of co-operation between the National Trust for Historic Preservation (which owns Casa Amesti), the Old Capitol Club (a local group of prominent men), and our association. Mrs. John Frier and Mrs. Leo Marihart have been appointed to this Committee. According to Mrs. Frances Elkins' will, she wished the Casa Amesti to be available to visitors for reasonable periods. It has proved difficult for the men of the Club to open the building, and so our wonderful ladies will do one more service for the community.

GIFTS RECEIVED: Mrs. Duncan Todd, Acquisition Chairman, reports the following gifts. An interesting chocolate set from Mrs. James Land; a watercolor of the Old Whaling Station from Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Pearce; a tea caddy and silver thimble container from Mr. J.M. Burns; a crocheted bedspread from Mrs. W. Tittle; a lace embroidered tablecloth from Mrs. Phyllis Lehman; an embroidered velvet case from the Monterey Civic Club; two damask cloths from Mr. and Mrs. Al Railton.

CASA SERRANO GIFTS include a generous monetary gift from Mrs. Roland M. Klemme; and a matching set of wine glasses has been made possible by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Farr, Mrs. George Dungaugh, and Mr. Robert Stanton.

COSTUME GIFTS reported by Mrs. John Frier have been two lovely ball gowns and a Ming Dynasty Mandarin robe and skirt from Mrs. Raymond William; and a period costume of the past century from Mrs. George L. Tomlinson.

MARITIME MUSEUM: Admiral Earl Stone reports a valued contribution by a generous check from the Fred R. Muhs Family Foundation. We wonder if all our members know that the Maritime Museum is kept open by volunteers from our membership, and the rent and utilities have to be managed by gift?

NEW MEMBERS: Mrs. Ray Billingham, Mrs. Macdonald Booze, Mrs. William R. Coats, Mr. & Mrs. George S. Cole, Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. Danielson, Miss Deborah Dewey, Mrs. Wallace F. Getz, Mr. & Mrs. Gene A. Green, Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. C. Julius Lagerholm, RADM. & Mrs. I.W. Linder, Mrs. John McCormick, Mr. & Mrs. Loren D. Olsen, Mrs. Helen H. Parsons, Dr. & Mrs. Charles N. Pearson, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Reichert, Capt. Allen B. Sherman, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Stanton, Mrs. Lila Teninga, Mrs. Joseph C. Toy. Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Brooks, Miss Faith Conklin, Mr. & Mrs. Horace Coniglio, Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ferrante, Mr. & Mrs. William E. Fisher, Miss Felicity E. Long, Mrs. Edward E. Lowery, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Minnick, Mrs. Thomas C. Moore, Mr. & Mrs. Francisco Muro, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde W. Ray, Miss Hester Schoeninger, Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Van Dellen, Mrs. Raymond Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur P. Woodfin.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Col. Richard J. Long has been elected by the Board as a new Director. Welcome!



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