

## Medina County 49ers

Susan Paolano McKiernan

Dr Elbridge Gerry Hard worked at dad's carding factory one of the 1<sup>st</sup> in Western Reserve, to Medina office on Court 1828, went to Pike's Peak for gold 1859, wife Frances, fought in Civil War, county treasurer 1890-94.

James E Hines 1859 to gold fields at Pikes Peak, to Medina 1860 bought the Tollman farm  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles North of Medina to 1868, sold to HP Foskett & moved to Medina 1868, after great fire he manufactured bricks, later involved in Medina Holloware, died 1902.

James Coggsell brother of Wm T of Medina left a pleasant home in the expectation of reaping a fortune in the El Dorado of the Pacific. Died of cholera at Fort Laramie on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, lost on his way to California, his diary presented to WW Goggsell 1848 by Mrs H Toney.

Samuel Rutherford Dundass was a 49er and kept a diary of the trip. The family still lived in Lafayette in 1927. He went overland and returned by the Horn. Leaving the sailing vessel in NY harbor, he came as far as Buffalo by train. There he was overcome by illness and died. His brother Rev John R Dundass who preached here brought back the body for burial at Poe. He edited and published the journal in 1858. WH Murray of Salem is here looking for a copy of the book and willing to pay \$100 although he has one already. Mrs EL Obendorf (her father was Samuel's nephew) provided the Gazette with a copy, will serialize. Photo of him.

**Dundass Overland Trail Diary:** Over seven hundred travelers along the Great Platte River Road left journals or diaries about their experiences in going West. These documents often have a vividness which particularly grasps the attention of a modern reader. The Samuel R. Dundass diary of his journey from Steubenville, Ohio, to California in 1849 includes a description of several Nebraska locations along the trail such as Fort Kearny and Chimney Rock. Dundass noted in the journal entry for May 26, 1849: "Having arrived at the Platte River, we proceeded along its banks in an upward direction for about ten miles, and encamped a little below Fort Kearny, where we improved an opportunity of writing to our friends. The Fort was but lately established; no buildings were yet up, but those built of sward taken from the surface of the Prairie. About one hundred soldiers were on the ground, and actual preparations were in a state of energetic prosecution for the erection of a garrison and other buildings necessary

for the regular military fortification of the place. Here we found a small store, but as the demand for most goods had been greater than the supply, the prices were very high, and even at the most exorbitant rates, the stock had been almost exhausted, being bought out by needy emigrants. To take the advantage of a fellow creature's necessity is a development of human nature, found even here in the wilderness."

June 12, 1849, found the company "encamping opposite Chimney Rock, which was in view from the previous day. It rises in a regular conical form, being about 300 yards in circumference at its base, and about 200 feet high; running gradually to a point on the top till within 40 or 50 feet of the pinnacle, when a round column of stone some 80 or 100 feet in diameter, of a soft texture apparently part lime, and part sand; stands perpendicular on the top. Supposing it only a small walk a number hastened off to visit it, and a cedar hollow near it while supper was being prepared. But like other objects viewed at a distance on the plain, it proved much farther than we had anticipated."

Shortly after arriving with his company in California, Dundass began to suffer from health problems and decided to return to Ohio. He embarked on a vessel bound for New York City, where he began the last segment of the journey. However, he was able to travel only as far as Buffalo, New York, where he died October 6, 1850, of typhoid fever.

Samuel Crane, to California gold rush 1851-1854, to Medina 1874, wool buyer died 1909

George M Buchanan.

Thomas Huddleston went via Pike's peak, was a blacksmith at the AI Root Company, died by 1929.

Ebenezer "Ev" Manning moved to Medina in 1832, went to California with the 49ers and never returned.

Aaron Sanders moved to Medina 1836, IOOF in Medina 1851, cooper, merchant in 1840 working for an English trading company, saw Rocky Mountains in 1844, was in Chihuahua when war was declared against Mexico, 49er by horseback to Missouri then drove a mule to California & mule 1849, remained there during the CA gold excitement. Came back in 1851, Mr. Aaron Sanders' new brick residence next spring by Clark & Munger 1875 opposite NH Bostwick corner. 1880 Medina merchant selling "cloths, cashmeres, & Ready-Made clothing, also a splendid lot of hats, caps & Gent's furnishing goods". Celebrated 61 years in IOOF with a bell

solo & whistling solo, to get him out of the room they asked him to raise a window, he did so with a window stick. photo Feb 25 1910. Died 1911, wife Anna.

Herschel Bannor/Bannock Seymour went to California in 1849 with the Wolverine Rangers of Marshall, MI. On June 13, 1849 he shot an elk, providing "stew pie for all of the messes" which was much appreciated, since they had not eaten any meat except bacon for a month. He died Aug 12 1849 of "mountain disease" probably caused by a tick near Smith's Fork, what is now Lincoln Co. Wyoming. He was buried by the side of the trail by William Swain who describes his death in his journal. He must have been well liked as Swain says that the group was saddened all the next day, and the next Sunday's sermon was about him.

First train into Akron 1852, railroad built by Simon Perkins born Guilford 1831, to California gold fever 1852, took 4 months to get there, walked most of the way, returned 2 years later via Panama, Civil War in old 42<sup>nd</sup> Garfield's regiment.

George Searles had a farm on Fenn Rd and Rte 42, born in England, to California during gold rush, died 1897. Related to Rev Roger Searle/Searles.

Two sons of Peter Moore of Sharon (probably Franklin and Jacob) were 49ers, then engaged in cattle and ranching, very wealthy. Both dead, a battle over their estate. Could be worth over a million dollars.

In 1922 Gazette: SS Oatman wrote that: the evening before the 49ers went out a great crowd gathered in front of what is now the Hemmeter building to bid them good-bye and good-luck. Speeches by prominent citizens and demonstrations giving encouragement to the brave and reckless men who were about to undertake 2000 miles over howling deserts, mountains and forests infested by savage and hostile redskins thirsting for blood and scalps of pale faces. A pandemonium of revelry, cheering, crying, singing, rejoicing this band of adventurers were bid adieu, many of them forever. How the world has shrunk!

**1929** Cleveland *Plain Dealer* story of River Styx by Tom Wilson, once a boatman on the Ohio Canal. Later a matchmaker: in 1827 an old German tramp passing through taught them how to make matches: pine shingles whittled into 1¼" slivers, dipped in a boiling mixture of sulphur, glue, water, phosphorus and chlorate of potash. River Styx brewery sold all the beer and blind robins (dried herring) you could want for a sixpence. He kept a stable on the (canal) boat so that he could take #1000 from Akron to Cleveland, switching the horses as they tired. He lives on the home built by father and uncle near the cemetery. He was later a traveling minstrel. Now 81 and cemetery caretaker there. Father John and uncle David settled it. Named Styx River by the Indians after the logs washed up

each spring, the Wilsons called it Wilsons' Corners. John Wilson had 15 kids. Elder son Alvin was a 49er who never returned.

Nov 20 1855 Ansel Smith to sell his frame house and barn at Wilson's Corners, went to California.

Troy's Corners was busy spot –immigrants going west in the 1850s, 2 hotels, 3 factories, general store, and blacksmith. "Squaw Tavern" on site of a squaw's murder had a wooden sign of squaw, a sign to passing emigrants, it burned in 1856.

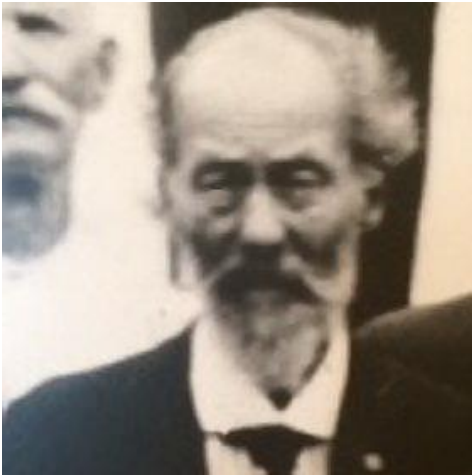
1891 Ira Bennett died- thrown from under a land roller on his farm in Windfall, son Grant witnessed it, the mules turned suddenly. Born in Wadsworth 1829, was carpenter, in California 1851-1853, married Laura A Hatch May 13 1855, four children including Scott S and Grant of Bennett's Hardware

JH Hickox of Oakland CA brother of Mrs EA Warner of Medina Township 1<sup>st</sup> white male child born in Medina Village in 1820 in a log house that stood at the rear of where Barnard's block is now (in 1882), he left here 1849, went to California in 1850.

49ers from Seville see Seville history 1816-1916

"Californy fever." March 13 1850 John B Leland, Andrew Gray, Eliza Harris, Julius E Harris, Frank Cook, Wm Cook, Wm High, Medwin Porter, John Devin and others left with 4-horse teams. All arrived safely and all returned except Medwin Porter who died in Shasta May 1851 and John Devin who died in Stockton Oct 18 1852.

Timothy Metzger in Liverpool 1850, harness maker, to California 1853-1868. Civil War 1862-1865 (Sargent). Married Maria Rudd in Medina 1869, still here 1880. 1850, 1870 and 1880 census says he is mulatto born in Germany to German parents. In Wellington by 1890, died 1920 still a harness maker, buried Wellington.



Simeon Oatman wrote in Oct 17, 1922: In the Gold Rush, an uncle of Simeon S Oatman went to California. He was set upon by Apache Indians in Arizona. Father, mother & 2 sons massacred, 2 sisters carried away into captivity. Another son was left for dead and was rescued by another party of immigrants. One of the girls died, the other sold to a friendly tribe and lived with them for many years. She was finally discovered by some US soldiers who bought her for a few pieces of silver and returned her to civilization. She is now an old woman and the wife of a San Antonio lawyer. The town of Oatman, AZ got its name from this massacre. Grand Uncle of LH Oatman Guthrie, IA (?) Simeon Oatman wrote in Oct 17, 1922.