

B. J. P. P.

ARGONAUTS and PIONEERS

William Lucas Plaskett

William Lucas Plaskett. (Grandpa) Born in Indiana 1818. His uncle, Plaskett, crossed the Delaware that famous Christmas night with Washington. His father fought in the Revolutionary War, also.

Moved to Iowa from where, in 1848 he started to California with a company of men, all gold-seekers. Traveled to Carson Sink with ox-teams. Here they fell in with Fremont's party. Took about eight months to cross from Iowa to Sutter's Fort, which they reached in February 1849. No dangers on trip and Indians did not bother these first comers. They reached the fort with only their guns for which they had no ammunition.

He was at Sacramento during the cholera scourge and acted as doctor and nurse. Grandpa was a student from William and Mary's College.

He mined first at Cherokee Hill in what is now Nevada County. He made lots of money. Mined, also, at French Corral.

In 1851 returned home by the Panama route and up to the Mississippi River. Never saw his son Theodore, who was born while he was in California, for the baby died before his return.

In 1852 brought wife and two remaining sons to California by Panama route. Landed at Aspinwall on Atlantic side and wife and children were carried across isthmus on chairs lashed to backs of negroes. They were separated from the two children but found them on the beach at Panama that evening. Grandma very sick on the Pacific sea voyage which lasted nearly a month. They expected to bury her

at sea, as they did a number of others, but she survived and landed in San Francisco, where they lived in a tent for a few weeks. Next they moved to Sacramento, where Grandma took in sewing and Grandpa built houses, made waterwheels (for he was a wheelwright) and mined. He went back to his Cherokee mine for awhile.

About 1854 the family moved to Anderson Valley in Mendocino County where they farmed and raised stock. My mother, Mendocino, was born there.

Later moved to Mariposa County to build quartz mills and waterwheels. Then he mined in the Sycamore branch of Kings River. This was a very profitable mine, but he put the money from it into a copper mine that he was finally taxed out of.

Moved to the coast in Monterey County about 1870, where he lived for thirty years and was very prosperous as a cattleman and farmer. He raised a family of ten.

Retired to Salinas about 1900, where he died in 1910 at the age of 92 years. He died from an accident, having fallen and broken two of his ribs.

Grandma (Mrs. Sarah ^{Barnes} Plaskett) was descended from the French colony in Acadia. The old family name was Baronett. (Sarah's mother was a Baronett.)

Grandma Plaskett died in 1923 at the age of 96 years.

Grandpa Plaskett ^{is Mother} was first cousin to Benjamin Rush (signer of Declaration of Independence.) His forebears came on the Mayflower, but I cannot get the name.