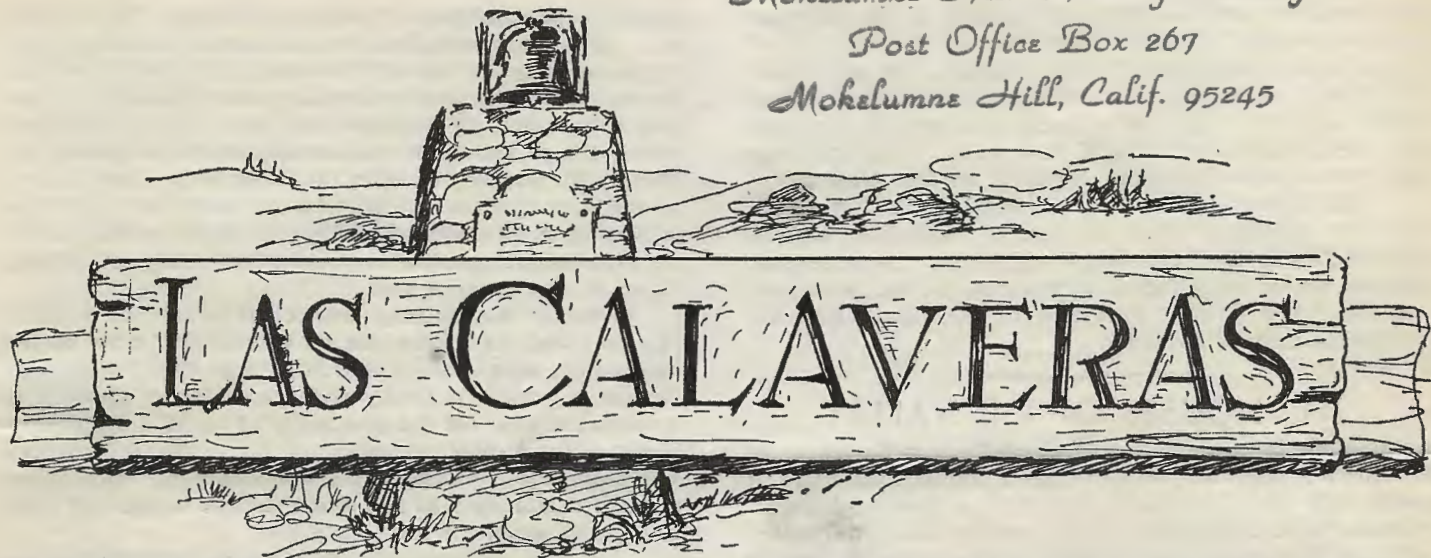


Mokelumne Hill History Society
Post Office Box 267
Mokelumne Hill, Calif. 95245



Volume IX

Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society
July 1961

Number 4

THE STONE HOUSES OR THE LOST CITY OF CALAVERAS COUNTY

By
DONALD E. BARROWS

14 South Oro St.
Stockton, California

A paper submitted to Dr. Joseph C. McGowan of
Sacramento State College in 1959

Introduction

The purpose of this paper has been to secure as much information as possible regarding the origin and inhabitants of the alleged "Lost City" of Calaveras County. This city or group of ruins lies at the extreme northern end of Salt Spring Valley, although for the purpose of reference, the text will refer to the area extending beyond as far north as Hogan Dam and the Calaveras River as part of the same valley. Also, for the benefit of residents and people familiar with the area, certain facts should be disclosed concerning names applied to various creeks, roads and other landmarks. One example is the road which runs along the floor of the valley parallel to the foot of Bear Mountain. Since there has been some difference of opinion as to what the correct name is, the text will refer to it as the Old Valley Springs Road. The creeks on which the ruins and the Pedroli Place are situated are generally known as Whiskey and Bear Creek, but as it has been necessary to use maps in this work, the creeks are referred to in the text as they appear on these maps as Bear and Dry Creek respectively. Mention should be made here for the reader that the Pedroli Place referred to in the text is the old Pedroli stone house located in Section Thirty-four and not to be confused with the eighty-acre parcel in the Western Half of Section Twenty-seven purchased by the family in 1900.

Finally, the name Lost City should be discussed.



STONE HOUSES—These are the best preserved of the rock buildings at "Lost City" and are sometimes referred to as the "Chalet."

Apparently, the first indication residents of the area had that such a place existed was upon reading about it in the papers in the early 1930's. Prior to that time, the ruins were commonly known as The Stone House, and whenever possible, they will be referred to as such in the text.

In an effort to secure data for this paper, the author has made several trips to the site and the surrounding areas, talked with and interviewed several of the long time residents of the county, reviewed various newspapers, publications, mining claims, voters' registers, census reports,

and prepared sketches, maps and photos of the ruins as well as checking distances. However, due to a paucity of names and a minimum of time, checking the aforementioned has not only been exceedingly difficult but in many cases unfruitful; therefore, evidence tendered at this time may be further substantiated at a later date when time will permit more extensive research on the subject.

I am deeply indebted to Mr. William B. Gann, Mrs. Mary C. Stegman, Mrs. Hannah L. Biedinger, Messrs. Gilbert Lopez, Earl Cuselidge and Gustav Vogelgesang, without whose assistance this paper might not have been possible. My sincere gratitude to Mr. Basil Esmond, Calaveras County Recorder.

THE HOUSES OF THE VALLEY

Throughout the upper end of Salt Springs Valley stand the ruins of several stone buildings of dubious vintage and ownership. Along the Old Valley Springs Road, which runs parallel to Bear Mountain on the eastern side of the valley and on the creeks and ravines which border it on the west, many remains of stone dwellings can be seen. The majority of these were undoubtedly the homes of miners who came to the locality in the wake of the gold and copper strikes of the fifties and sixties and later were abandoned as these ores played out. Among these many buildings stands one group of ten which is located on Bear Creek where it bends and flows in a northerly direction running parallel to, then crossing Gann Road some distance beyond the site. It will be with these buildings, commonly known to old time residents of the Valley as the Stone Houses and in later years named the Lost City that this text will deal.

A portion of ground on which the ruins are situated was first sold by the United States Government through the Stockton Land Office on May 21, 1877, to Eugene Barbe. This sale of one hundred and sixty acres was for a sum total of \$200.00. The quarter section adjoining this on the east was sold through the same office the following year to Marion Eubank, who apparently did not retain possession of the land too long, for in February of 1886, a Benjamin Foster had claim to this same quarter section and sold it to Abner M. Sabin of Milton, California, who in turn sold it the following month to Captain John T. Wright of Oakland, California, builder of the original Red House Ranch of Salt Spring Valley. Thereafter, this parcel of ground remained in the Captain's possession until 1895 when a portion of it was leased to Jacob F. Tower of Salt Spring Valley. In 1898 Wright sold this same piece of ground, consisting of approximately twenty and one-half acres, to Tower.

Evaluating the original purchase and the following disposal of these parcels of ground, certain facts become apparent. First, the purported "Lost City" was actually on two parcels of ground owned by different individuals. Since Barbe, who retained possession of his portion until his demise, was actually engaged in building, this could account for several of the structures located there. The adjoining portion, which for the sake of clarity we will refer to as the Eubank Section, contained four of the buildings, including the ruins of a two-story house. However, two of these four buildings, it is fairly certain, were

used for storehouses or as sheds for animals. The houses, as a rule, were occupied by one person, although this might include the person's livestock and fowl since predators were numerous and doing much damage in the area. Therefore, even maintaining that all the structures were built at one time and each housed one person, although the larger two-story building may have housed as many as three or four, this would account for only ten or so people, and even doubling this figure would hardly be a sufficient number to populate a village or mining camp of any consequence.

Secondly, the buildings were constructed over a period of time; and, as far as can be determined, none of the occupants, who were apparently all Frenchmen, had women or children living with them. This appears to weaken the case for the possibility of a city, for although many of the earlier mining camps were devoid of women and children, it is improbable that one being constructed at such a late date as the Stone Houses would not have had some semblance of family life.

It is also apparent that in view of the fact that the inhabitants were erecting the two-story building on the Eubank section as late as 1879, and perhaps finished some of the others after that date, one would expect to find many more units in evidence. On the Barbe section, construction was carried on almost continuously, thereby almost surely precluding the possibility of more than one or two buildings being there before them, if any at all. Mr. William B. Gann, who has resided in the immediate vicinity of the Stone Houses most of his life, said that Barbe in particular was an avid builder and would often, with the aid of those who were living there with him, begin construction of a shed or building and never finish it, or would build a house, live in it for a time, then move into one he had more recently erected. Why he did this is not certain, but since there was an abundance of flat rock which made suitable building materials and the land had to be cleared for cultivation, he apparently used the discarded rock to the best advantage.

Third, since Barbe acquired the second one-hundred and sixty acres by pre-emption, it may be that some of the buildings were put up as improvements prior to his receipt of title to the land in 1883. He may have inadvertently improved on land to which he already held title thinking it was contiguous territory he was hoping to annex. This theory becomes quite feasible when one notices on the map that the eastern boundary of the Barbe land almost evenly divides the buildings at the site with a portion of the second quarter-section lying just south of the group. Whether or not this was the actual case may never be known, but the fact remains that of the ten units at the scene, apparently half of them were built between the years of 1877 and 1895.

A fourth possibility is that in addition to the French, who dwelt at the Houses, Indians also lived there at one time, which is substantiated by the presence of two large "Indian Mills" (stones used for acorn grinding). Others may have once occupied the grounds and perhaps even built one or two of the units but hardly enough to be of importance as a city or camp. These previous inhabitants, if there were any such people, might have been Spanish or Mexican, which would account for the presence of two

arastras on the creek bank between the two-story house and what appears to be the remains of either a stone corral or part of a diversion dam for mining the creek bed. However, these devices were apparently in common usage. Therefore, the Frenchmen themselves could very well have been the ones who installed the mechanisms to crush ore or perhaps to grind flour although the latter possibility seems rather remote due to their size.

Fifth, in neither Barbe's nor Eubank's acquisition of property from the government is any reference made to any buildings or specific locality other than by the regular township and range system. Perhaps this is not of any particular significance, but it appears quite possible that some mention of the site as a former city or camp would appear for easier identification in these disposal sales made by the government.

From 1895 until the present date the buildings have remained unoccupied with the exception of itinerant prospectors, who have camped and mined there. The buildings' roofs, about which there have been various stories, were made of rough pine shakes which were burned off during the big fire of 1914 that swept through the area. With the last of the inhabitants apparently departing in 1895 or 1896 followed by the fire, the buildings fell into such a state of disrepair that some are nothing more than a fireplace and chimney with a few adjoining stones which once were a wall. Others, however, are in a relatively good state of repair, considering the treasure seekers who have dug up floors, tore down parts of walls and wreaked havoc in general looking for a cache of gold and valuables belonging to Joaquin Murieta, who supposedly lived and mined there.

As shall be seen in the following pages, the Frenchmen lived at the site from 1877 until 1895 with title to the land and quite possibly long before that without it. The construction of the buildings is very similar to that of others built by their fellow countrymen throughout the mining region, and giving credit due them for their industriousness, the remains of ten units, three and possibly four of which were buildings other than dwellings, seem to indicate a strong case for their origin beginning with the small group of Frenchmen who settled there rather than the remains of a city or camp lost somewhere in the dim shades of the past.

FRENCHMEN OF THE STONE HOUSES

Why the group of Frenchmen picked this particular spot to locate and the year in which they first appeared are questions to which there are no set answers at this time. In all probability they were seeking valuable ores which they apparently believed were located at the site. However, the question still remains whether they made the original strike, or were there already certain improvements on the piece of ground which drew them to it? One in particular could have been a large mineshaft, the remains of which is located on the edge of the creek at the upper end. This shaft, which will be discussed with others later, will be referred to as the original. Whatever their reason for settling at the spot, the fact remains that by 1877, one of their number had acquired title to part of the ground and had begun improving on adjoining land for

the purpose of annexing by homestead. There is even some doubt that they arrived as a group. It is quite possible that one or two came first and that the others followed, or that various individuals came from time to time residing with Barbe, who was the original owner although not necessarily the first of the Frenchmen. These people came, nevertheless, whether as the original inhabitants, later arrivals or transient guests, and apparently all were industrious. It has been reported by people who visited the Frenchmen during this time that they were continuously working in their gardens or constructing new buildings, fences or pens for their livestock and fowl. They also were running sluice boxes which they tended from time to time.

In the previous chapter it was stated that probably not more than four to six men ever lived at the Stone Houses at one time. Like their arrival, the time of their departure from the scene is not too certain other than we are relatively sure that the last permanent occupant moved out in the latter half of 1895 or the first part of 1896. This conclusion was arrived at not only on the basis of eye witnesses' accounts but by a bill of \$24.00 submitted against the estate of Eugene Barbe by William K. Dean for caring for the deceased's property from February 20 to May 1, 1896. This sets the known dates for the Frenchmen at the site.

The best known of the Frenchmen who lived at the location was the little farmer-peddler, Eugene Barbe, a native of France, who first appeared on the list of voters of Calaveras County in 1875 which lists him as being naturalized on April 8, 1873, in Tuolumne County. Later, this reads Calaveras County which could perhaps be accounted for by filing papers in both localities and never completing the process in either, possibly explaining the absence of any naturalization data on him in the 1892 Register. Also, he lists Jenny Lind as his residence until 1884; in 1886 it is listed as Calaveritas; then from 1888 through 1892, Salt Spring Valley. However, in the absence of a Post Office in the immediate vicinity, this may have been where he received his mail or used as the closest voting site; for in all probability he had been residing at the Stone Houses all this time which can further be substantiated by the fact that by 1880, if not earlier, he was peddling his produce to the people of the region from the aforementioned locality.

Barbe's weekly vending trips were made to such places as Milton, Copperopolis and the numerous farms throughout the area. These trips, made by him alone in a one-horse wagon, probably would account for his acquaintance with the people of the region while the other dwellers at the site, with one exception, tended to remain in complete obscurity. Being short in stature unkempt in appearance and experiencing considerable difficulty in both the English language and from the effects of indulging in his home-made wine, he became somewhat of a local character being nicknamed by the people "Crazy Barber." This undoubtedly accounts for the misspelling of his name as Barbier, even in official records.

That Barbe and his associates were industrious practically speaks for itself when one views the remains of their labors. The numerous terraces mentioned earlier were used to level the ground and act as containers for

top soil added to enrich the rocky surface. Stone fences served not only as boundary markers but kept the livestock, consisting of cows, horses, sheep and goats, out of the gardens. In addition, the men had numerous chickens, ducks and a few dogs which either stayed indoors with the men at night or in pens constructed for them. Barbe himself is credited with building the shale road which leads along the creek through his vineyard and up towards Gann Road. He also either constructed four of the six buildings on his property or at least assisted in the construction of them. Mr. William Gann remembers when only two of the six were standing and recalls visiting Barbe from time to time when he was in the process of erecting the others. However, he states that to the best of his knowledge, the four lying on what was the original Eubank quarter section were already standing when he first visited the site as a youth. Mr. Gann remembers that in addition to Barbe there was another Frenchman named Legrant, who lived with and worked for Barbe. The others he recalls as being mostly individuals who lived there for various periods of time rather than any particular ones who dwelt there continuously.

It was while on one of his peddling sojourns to Copperopolis and the vicinity that Eugene Barbe met his death on June 22, 1895. As was his custom, according to the newspaper, he had stopped at the roadhouse of Eli Moore to water his horse. In the process of removing the bridle, the horse apparently began to run, and Barbe was crushed beneath the wagon. No one actually witnessed the accident, but his body was discovered lying across the wagon tracks a short time later.

Since at the time of his death Barbe apparently had no known relatives, Dr. George F. Pache, coroner, applied for and was appointed Administrator of his estate by the Court. The personal property was disposed of by public auction on August 3, 1895, for a total of \$212.30. The real property, consisting of 320 acres, was sold to James Mason for \$704.00 in 1896. Later, after the estate had been disposed of and the various claims against it liquidated, it was discovered through the French Consulate in San Francisco, California, that Barbe had two sisters living in France. The balance of the estate, which amounted to \$202.70, was then divided equally between them.

One significant fact which appeared in the probate of the estate was this excerpt from the proceedings which read:

Land described with reference to the United States public land surveys as follows: N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{2}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$. Also, S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 27 Township 3N, R 11 E M.D.M. with house and fences therein, now unoccupied and valued at \$960.00.

The probability here is that the additional dwellings on Barbe's ground had fallen into disuse and were no longer considered as habitations; or perhaps, the appraisers of the estate mistook the rather detached position of Barbe's living quarters as an indication that they were not part of the other buildings. This could well be for as mentioned earlier, the proximity of all the houses to the quarter section boundary lines would make the commission of such an error highly possible. How this came about then will probably never be known, but the fact

remains that according to the map, and to Mr. William B. Gann, who accompanied the author to the site, six of the buildings stand on Barbe's land.

Sometime between Barbe's death in June of 1895 and the following February, Amon Legrant, who resided with and worked for Barbe, moved out of the Stone Houses and into a cabin on the Pedroli Place, which is located approximately one mile south on Dry Creek (also known as Bear Creek) just off Gann Road. With his departure, the houses were left uninhabited, and, as was stated in the first part of this chapter, William K. Dean collected a sum of \$24.00 for acting as caretaker from February 20 until May 15, 1896. Legrant, who also submitted a bill against the estate for cutting hay, wood and working in the garden prior to Barbe's demise, was paid \$60 on June 28, 1896. Legrant apparently remained on the Pedroli place even after the Hunt family of Milton, California, purchased it, and he was cared for by the family until his death.

What became of the other inhabitants of the houses is another question to which there is no positive answer. According to Mrs. Christina M. Stegman, the men were all living at the scene as late as 1891 and may have remained there until Barbe's death. However, since part of the dwellings were not on land owned by Barbe, it could be that in the interim between 1891 and 1895, the men were forced to leave by the owner, Captain Wright. This could be the result of negotiations between Wright and Jacob F. Tower over the aforementioned lease which Tower acquired on January 1, 1895. This lease, which will be discussed more fully in the following chapter, gave Tower the mining rights to the northeast quarter section of Section twenty-seven, as well as parts of sections twenty-six and thirty-five with certain reservations. With Tower acquiring these mining rights, it would appear that if the men were still living on the premises at that time they would undoubtedly have been forced to vacate. Another possibility is the theory advanced by Mr. William Gann; that is that the other occupants, being transient Frenchmen who stayed at the site for varying lengths of time, had moved on and no others had appeared in their place. Still, the fact remains that for whatever reason the men apparently had deserted the site by the middle of 1896, and to this day no one other than itinerant prospectors have lived there since. However, one group, who mined at the site rather extensively around 1917, had quarters there; but they lived in tents on the hill above the ruins rather than in any of the buildings.

THE STONE HOUSE MINES

Today at the site of the ruins there are the remains of four mine shafts and evidence of various surface diggings. For purposes of identification the shafts will be numbered one through four. Number one will be the one designated earlier as the original. Numbers two and three will be the shafts immediately above it, all three being situated on the portion of ground known as the Eubank Section. Number four shaft is located in the creek bed on the Barbe half of the site.

Number one shaft apparently has been at the site for many years and has not yet been identified as to origin and date; however, Mr. William Gann states that

to the best of his knowledge, it precedes his time. This large shaft situated on the edge of the creek just east of the two-story house may have been put down prior to the coming of the Frenchmen, or very possibly was dug by them. Whichever the case may be, it apparently lies within the ground purchased by the Tower Family from the Red House Ranch. This purchase, as previously mentioned, actually began in January of 1895 when negotiations for a two-year lease were entered into between John T. and Terrila V. Wright of Oakland, California, owners of the Red House Ranch, and Jacob F. Tower of Salt Spring Valley. The claim was not to exceed twenty-five acres and Wright was to receive half-interest in any strike. Tower was to work it diligently, the price for his interest in the claim being his work and labor. In January of 1898, Tower purchased approximately twenty-two and a half acres in the western half of the Northeast quarter of Section Twenty-seven, Township Three, Range Eleven East under conditions of the lease of 1895. This deed gave Tower title to land on which part of the ruins are situated. The original shaft apparently is situated within this acreage as are numbers two and three. Mr. William Gann stated that the latter two shafts were worked by the Towers in his time. Also, he remembers number four being sunk in the creek bed by Steven Dean but stated that it was abandoned without being worked extensively due to the poor grade of ore.

According to Mrs. Christina M. Stegman, the Frenchmen were engaged chiefly in surface diggings. She recalls seeing a number of their sluice boxes resting on a stone retaining wall across the creek from the two-story house. Although they were not being tended at the time, water from a dam on the creek above the house was coursing through them. The water was carried down to the boxes by a small ditch which remains in evidence today. However, since it has been reported that the Frenchmen were still constructing the houses on the Eubank portion as late as 1879, and Mr. Gann states that these four buildings were built of stone from the original mine, it apparently substantiates the fact that they did work the shaft themselves. Also, Mr. Foster Tower of Salt Spring Valley, told the author that his uncle, Frank Tower, relayed to him essentially the same facts; that is, that the buildings were built out of stone from the mines. According to Mr. Tower, the gold lay in thin clay seams between the planes of stratification rather than in the rock which fractured readily into blocks making it suitable for building material.

The number two and three shafts, sunk by the Towers and subsequently worked by Charles Vogelgesang and John Hall, still have not been located in the mining claims in the County Recorder's Office. Therefore, other than the fact that they were probably sunk in 1895 or after and that they were being worked in 1917, not much more can be said about them at this time. Since mining claims are not listed according to the section of ground on which they are situated, one must either find them under the owner's name or under a particular name given to the mine. This information which may or may not be of considerable value, has so far not been secured. It is hoped that in finding the claim to either the number two or number three shaft that some reference to the original

shaft might be uncovered which could be the key to the entire Stone House puzzle. However, since this is a time consuming process, both in searching through the many handwritten claims and in traveling the eighty-mile round trip to San Andreas, California, for this purpose, the answers will be sought later as time permits. For this same reason, nothing has yet been determined in regard to the number four shaft or the surface diggings.

In addition to the Frenchmen, who, as stated earlier, did a great deal of surface mining, a Joseph Nelson began prospecting at the site around 1910. While in the process, he made a fairly good strike on a ledge along the creek bank not far from where Steven Dean sank his shaft. The land belonged to the Red House Ranch, which at the time was owned by a Mr. Corcoran. Nelson had Mr. Gann approach Corcoran on the possibility of making some arrangement for working the claim on a percentage basis, but the deal failed to materialize and no further work was done.

When viewed in the light of the foregoing facts, another phase of the "Lost City" appears a little less valid. The dating of numbers two, three and four shafts after the time when the Stone Houses were occupied, leaves only one shaft at the site which could possibly have been worked by the Frenchmen or by some earlier inhabitants of the site. Although the shaft is fairly large, it does not appear to be of such magnitude that a city or camp would have been built for the sole purpose of working it. The surface work which was carried on at the house was undoubtedly a seasonal thing for the scarcity of water during the dry season, which made damming the creek necessary, would have limited the amount of water available for washing their ores. Too, the amount of surface work, of which evidence can be seen, does not appear to be extensive, especially when it is remembered that the Frenchmen were at the site several years and that various prospectors have been digging there since their departure.

Another point which might be brought out at this time is that none of the maps or mining bulletins checked in the State Library at Sacramento, California, show any indication of a mineshaft for this particular section of ground although many of the surrounding sections show mines not only on the maps but in the bulletins as well. Also, no reference is made to any camp or city in the vicinity on the maps in Holmes' *THE SOUTHERN MINES OF CALIFORNIA*, or in Carson's *EARLY RECOLLECTION OF THE MINES*, both of which go back as far back as 1852, nor was there any evidence in the numerous books and publications reviewed in the process of securing information pertaining to the site.

To summarize briefly the foregoing text, a few points should be re-emphasized at this time. These items are concerned with statements which appear about the alleged "Lost City" in the publication, *GHOST TOWNS AND RELICS OF '49* for the year 1946. The following is an attempt to point out certain inconsistencies which have appeared between this text and that of the aforementioned article as a result of research.

First, the statement was made that the Village (Stone Houses) is thought to be the ruins of Campo Feliz,

OFFICERS OF CALAVERAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

San Andreas, California

Judge J. A. Smith, President San Andreas
Paul Lewis, Vice-President Mountain Ranch
Coke Wood, Second Vice-President Murphys
Sadie Hunt, Secretary Valley Springs
Violet Cuslidge, Treasurer San Andreas
Board of Directors: Mrs. Alice Eldridge, San Andreas; Ed Leonard, Angels Camp; Claude Smith, West Point; Harry Buchanan, Rail Road Flat; Mrs. Rhoda Dunlap, Sonora.

Editor of Las Calaveras Coke Wood, Murphys

Las Calaveras is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society for the benefit of the members. Membership in the society is \$4.00 a year. Non-members may obtain copies of Las Calaveras for \$1.00 a copy. The historical material in this bulletin is not copyrighted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source will be appreciated.

The Calaveras County Historical Society meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Courthouse in San Andreas. Dinner meetings are held each quarter at different places in the county.

EDITORIAL

All members of the Calaveras Historical Society, whether they are now residents of Calaveras County or some other county join in extending congratulations to our beloved President and Mrs. Smith on their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Our prayer is that they will have many more happy and useful years together.

There were ten members of the Calaveras Society in attendance at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Conference of California Historical Societies at Columbia on June 22-24 and the ladies cooperated with the Tuolumne and Mariposa Societies as joint hostesses.

This annual meeting was one of the best ever held as the historical setting was delightful and the program good. There were 206 delegates in attendance, representing fifty-one societies.

The next annual meeting of the Conference of California Historical Societies will be at Pasadena in June, 1962, with the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County as host. The meeting will be at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in South Pasadena.

Dr. Clarence McIntosh of Chico State College and a member of the Butte County Historical Society was chosen president of the Conference for 1961-62 and Mr. Jerry MacMullen, Director of Junipero Serra Museum in San Diego, was selected as Vice-President of the Conference. Your editor of "Las Calaveras" was re-elected for the eighth year as Executive Secretary of the Conference of California Historical Societies.

a part of the Rancheria Del Rio Estanislás. However, by checking the map in the front of Ruppel's text and Freese's Map of Calaveras County, it should be noted that the northern boundary line of the Ranch extended approximately one and one-half miles into Township One

North. This line, running from east to west, appears to bisect Sections Twenty-five through Thirty. A similar line drawn in a like manner through the same sections in Township Three North would pass within a short distance of the ruins, placing the site approximately twelve miles north of the northernmost boundary of the Rancheria Estanislás.

Also, the statement was made that the buildings other than the two-story house were said to have been low stone ramadas over which hides were placed for roofs in inclement weather. In view of the size of these buildings and the supporting testimony of eye witnesses, it is fairly certain that the roofs were of pine shakes rather than hides.

Another point to consider is the claim that "... no form of road leads into this sleeping villa." Still, Barbe constructed a slate road at the site, and since his peddling necessitated frequent trips to the surrounding countryside, it is quite obvious that he had a road of some sort leading to the old thoroughfare which passed through both Sections Twenty-six and Twenty-seven. This road, referred to earlier as the Old Valley Springs Road, was apparently in use in the 1860's when the Calendonia Mine was sunk. The shaft, drilled for copper, lies at the base of Bear Mountain and just off the road. It later became the Main Place.

The claim that no weapon or implement is to be found which could reveal the occupation of the inhabitants appears to completely overlook the mining aspect. It is true, perhaps, that most of the extensive work was done subsequent to the departure of the inhabitants, but it is fairly certain that, as mentioned previously, the original shaft was the source of material for at least part of the buildings, thus making mining one of the occupations and, as stated earlier, farming the other.

Finally, the absence of any tombs at the ruins could simply be explained by the burial of the inhabitants elsewhere. Barbe, although a resident of the site, is apparently buried in Altaville, California. Some of the others may be interred at surrounding towns, or in private cemeteries such as the one located just off Hunt Road in Section Four, Township Two, Range Eleven East. This burial ground lies adjacent to the west gate on the road to the McCarty Mine. This cemetery has headstones dating back to 1869 and quite possibly earlier, for some of the names and dates are completely effaced. Whatever the case may be, few graves could be expected to be found since, as related in the foregoing chapters, there were probably never more than four to six occupants at any one time.

In conclusion, it appears that evidence available at this time disallows the probability of a lost city or camp ever existing at the site wherein stagecoaches, stores, family dwellings and other such facilities were in existence. During the period of research, as previously mentioned, nothing was found in any newspaper, text, map or interview, either recorded or unrecorded, which would lend credence to the rumor of such a unit. Bearing this in mind, it is hoped that the reader will consider this as the results of research done as impartially as possible rather than a collection of selected facts amassed to substantiate or prove a personal viewpoint.