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## REMINISCENCES OF EARLY CALIFORNIA FROM 1831 TO 1846.

BY COL. J. J. WARNER.

It seems appropriate that before attempting to write about those Americans and others who, while California was to the mass of the American and other people of the world an unknown and unheard of country, came to California and wherefore they came to relate why and how I, myself, reached the present city then Pueblo of Los Angeles on the 5th of December, 1831.

Born in Lynn, New London County, Connecticut, November 20, 1807, the spring and summer of 1830 found me an invalid and, following the advice of my physician, I left my native state October 5th of that year in search of a milder clime in which to pass the coming winter.

Reaching New York without any definite destination, or route of travel, I was swept westerly by the strong and uninterrupted current of humanity flowing in that direction until I arrived in St. Louis in November with improved health.

Messrs. Smith, Jackson & Soublotte, who as the successors of Ashley & Smith had constituted the "Rocky Mountain Fur Company" for a number of years preceeding, arrived at St. Louis with a wagon train loaded with furs from the rendezvous of the company on the Yellowstone River a few days previous to my reaching that city. As this was the first wagon train that had come into St. Louis or Missouri from the Rocky Mountains it caused, together with the large amount and great value of the furs brought down, quite a sensation in that city which was not at that time a place of the same extent or business proportions as at this present time.

Partly from the novelty of going to the mountains, and partly from the hope of further improvement in health I sought for this purpose an interview with Mr. Smith. Instead of finding a leather stocking I met a well-bred, intelligent and Christian gentleman, who repressed my youthful ardor and fancied pleasures for the life of a trapper and mountaineer by informing me that if I went into the Rocky Mountains the chances were much greater in favor of meeting death than of finding a restoration to health, and that if I escaped the former and secured the latter, the probabilities were that I would be ruined for anything else in life than such things as would be agreeable to the passions of a semi-savage. He said that he had spent about eight years in the mountains and should not return to them.

I did not see him or his associates again until the following March when he called on me and informed me, that contrary to his first intention, he had determined to accompany a trading expedition which he had been fitting out for Santa Fe, New Mexico. He had originally engaged in this trading expedition for the benefit of two of his younger brothers to whom it was to have been entrusted but that as the amount of goods purchased for the expedition was much greater than he had anticipated he should now go out to New Mexico with his brothers and return in the fall and that he would give me a situation if I was disposed to go to New Mexico and be left there as an employee in the business or return with him as he might elect.

Accepting his offer I left St. Louis in his employ about the first of April and traveling by land with mule wagons we reached Lexington, Mo., to which point some goods had been shipped. A week or two was spent in Lexington and a day or two at Independence in adding to the means of transportation and in the laying in of stores for the journey. On the 4th of May, 1831, the camp on the left bank of the Little Blue, where we had remained two or three days making final preparations, was broken up and the party started in its pathless way across the plains for Santa Fe. The party consisted of eighty-five men. There were twenty-three wagons. Ten of these drawn by five or six mules each belonged to Messrs. Soubllette & Jackson, and ten moved by similar power belonged to Messrs. Mills & Chadwick of St. Louis, and one moved in like manner to Mr. Flournoy of Independence. There was one wagon drawn by four mules the joint property of Mr. Smith and Messrs Soubllette & Jackson which had a small field piece mounted upon the hind axle. The wagon was so constructed that it could be readily uncoupled and the hind wheels with the piece of artillery mounted thereon drawn out ready for action. All the proprietors accompanied the party. Mr. Fitzpatrick, one of the partners, successor to Smith, Jackson & Soubllette (the Rocky Mountain Fur Co.), who, with one man, had come from the rendezvous on the Yellowstone in the winter and who reached Lexington in April while the party was at that place with two or three men accompanied the party to New Mexico. Mr. Flournoy had a young son with him. All of the balance of the party were hired men.

Before reaching the Arkansas river the cowardly Pawnees killed one of the party, a Mr. Merton, clerk to Jackson & Soubllette, and a very estimable young man. While engaged in killing a couple of antelope he fell a little behind and out of sight of the party, when a dozen or so of mounted Pawnees rushed upon him from a hiding place and killed him.

Between the Arkansas and Cimarron rivers the party suffered extremely from a hot burning south wind and the want of water.

There was neither path, trail nor guide to lead the party to water. In the morning of the second day after leaving the Arkansas river Mr. Smith rode on in advance of the party in search of water. He did not return. Soon after the arrival of the party at Santa Fe, July 4th, 1831, some New Mexican Indian traders who had been out near the Cimarron river trading with the Arapahoes came into Santa Fe bringing the rifle and holster pistols of Mr. Smith, which they said they had purchased from the Indians who stated that they had killed the owner of the arms on the Cimarron river. The Indians said that a small party of their men were ambushed behind the bank of the river waiting for the buffalo to come down and drink. The bed of the river was generally dry at this time. Only occasionally along the bed of the river did the water rise to the surface of the sandy bed. While the Indians were ambushed near a watering place they saw a horseman approaching. He rode to the water and dismounted, gave his horse water and drank himself and as he was standing by the side of his horse they rushed suddenly upon him thrusting a lance through his body. That he then turned upon them and shot one of their number dead. The rifle and pistols were percussion locks with which the Indians had not any acquaintance and, therefore, sold them to the New Mexican traders.

As the death of Mr. Smith closed my engagement with him, or would have brought it to a termination on the return of the party to Missouri in the fall of that year, and as Mr. Jackson, who after arriving in New Mexico dissolved partnership with Mr. Soublette and had entered into partnership with Doctor David Waldo and Ewing Young, then both in New Mexico, was fitting out a small party at Santa Fe for California to purchase mules for the Louisiana market to be driven there by the way of Texas, I left the employment of the successors of Mr. Smith as the party was leaving New Mexico to return to Missouri and took service as a hired man with Mr. Jackson, who with a party of eleven men all told left Santa Fe on the sixth of September for California. Each man had a riding mule, and there were seven pack mules, the loads of five of which were silver coin, Mexican dollars. The party traveled down the Del Norte river, passing Albuquerque and the other towns along the Rio Aabjo (Lower River), and by the Santa Rita copper mine, crossing the San Pedro rancho and the abandoned mission of San Javier de Tubac, Tucson, a military post and small town, the Pima villages and crossed the Colorado a few miles below the mouth of the Gila, reaching San Diego via San Luis Rey in the early part of November, 1831. As before stated the party arrived at Los Angeles December 5th, 1831, where I remained with one man while Mr. Jackson, with the rest of the party, went north as far as the missions on the southern shores of the bay of San Francisco for the purpose of purchasing mules. He returned in the latter

part of March to Los Angeles with a much less number of mules than was anticipated. Here he was joined by Young, who had arrived with his party to assist in driving the mules through Texas to Louisiana, but as the number of mules was comparatively so small, it was resolved that Jackson should return to New Mexico over the route by which he came, with the animals that had been purchased, about six hundred mules and one hundred horses. It had been estimated that fifteen hundred or two thousand mules would be purchased. It was further determined that Young, after assisting Jackson to cross the Colorado river should return to California and spend the summer in shooting sea otter and in the fall proceed with a party of trappers to the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers and make a beaver hunt.

In May the return party, embracing most of the men who came with Young and Jackson's parties, left camp on the Santa Ana river at the Sierra rancho in the present county of San Bernardino, for the Colorado river where we arrived in June and found the river nearly bank full. With great difficulty and after some twelve days of incessant toil in the burning sun and other casualties the mules and horses were swam to the east shore and Jackson with about thirty men went on his way with the herd.

Mr. Young, with five men, of whom I was one, retraced their steps over the desert and reached Los Angeles in the last days of June. Mr. Young entered into an agreement with President Father Sanches, then in charge of the mission of San Gabriel, who had a brig commanded by Capt. Wm. Richardson, an Englishman, and which was engaged in the trade between California and other parts of Mexico and Peru, to transport him and his shooting party to some point on the coast where the otter resorted. Father Sanches also intrusted Capt. Richardson to lend such aid and assistance as were at his disposal to fit out the party. The brig was lying in the port of San Pedro to which place the party repaired about the 1st of July. With the help of the ship-carpenter of the brig two canoes were made. The timbers for the canoes were cut on the Feliz rancho near Los Angeles, and the planks were made from inch pine boards brought from Boston in a Boston vessel trading on the coast. The boards after being sawed into strips about five inches in width were split into two boards of less than half an inch in thickness. This cutting and splitting was done with a hand saw.

Early in July the canoes and some stores were taken on board the brig and Mr. Young with his otter hunters numbering six beside himself of whom two were Kanakas and myself, embarked and the brig stood out seaward. Calling at the Island of Santa Cruz the brig anchored at Prisoners harbor where the water casks were filled for the ship's use and then sailing to Point Conception the otter hunters, their canoes and some stores of which no part was whisky,

were landed. The brig's yawl was also left with the hunters. The brig then proceeded on her voyage to Monterey and the bay of San Francisco. After a few days spent in otter shooting near Point Conception Mr. Young, who had been spilled out of a canoe into the surf a number of times, left the otter hunters to continue the shooting and the pastime of being spilled out of canoes into the laughing surf, and proceeded to Monterey by land. After shooting about Point Conception for some days the otter hunters navigated the old yawl with the canoes in tow across the channel to the Island of San Miguel, and after shooting around it, sailed for Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz, treating each island in the same manner, and then sailed for and safely arrived at San Pedro in September.

Mr. Young had returned to Los Angeles and some five or six men whom he had gathered up were encamped at San Pasqual, near the San Gabriel Mission, where he was joined by the marine corps. The party recruited up to fourteen in number broke camp in the early part of October and proceeded by the Cajon de Uva, now Fort Tejon route and the western shore of the Tulare valley lakes to the mouth of King's river.

Having said this much of how and why I came to California and having reached a point where I entered upon to me a new vocation I may henceforward merge myself in the company with which I journeyed onward, and take up as well as I can in the order of time the history of those American and other parties which reached California overland or otherwise in early times and previous to my arrival as well as subsequent thereto of which I have knowledge.

Jedidiah S. Smith went to the Rocky Mountains in the service of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, of which company General Wm. H. Ashley of St. Louis was the chief active member. This company should not, as it frequently has been, be confounded with the American Fur Company, as, instead of having any connection with the latter, it was, from its inception, an active and persistent rival to that company. After a short time in the service of the company Smith became a partner with General Ashley, under the firm name of Ashly & Smith, who then constituted the active partners of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. After a few years General Ashley sold out his interest in the company to Smith, Jackson & William Soublette, who composed the Rocky Mountain Fur Company until the summer of 1830 when they sold out and retired from the business. Their successors were Frapp, Bridger, Fitzpatrick & Milton Soublette.

In 1826 Jedediah S. Smith led a party of trappers through the Green river country and over the Sierra Nevadas at or near the pass since known as Walker's pass into the great California valley, entering it near its southeastern extremity. He hunted on the rivers flowing into the lakes of that part of the valley called the Tulare



valley, the San Joaquin river and its tributaries in the valley until he reached the American branch of the Sacramento in the spring of 1825. Failing to find a feasible pass anywhere in that vicinity by which to leave the valley with his party he put his party into summer quarters on the American fork of the Sacramento, from which cause it took its name, and with two men went over the mountains, traveling up the American fork and over the deserts of Utah he reached the rendezvous of the company on the Yellowstone river. He was on the summit of the Sierra Nevada on the 29th of June and such was the elevation and so intense was the cold that his mules were frozen to death on that night. He succeeded in getting two or three horses over the mountains but these he was forced to kill for food before reaching Green river or a country of game.

In the fall of 1825 he left the rendezvous on the Yellowstone with another party of trappers and proceeding southerly to the head waters of Green river followed down that water course about two hundred miles, to where that river bends to the west then he left it, and continued southerly over the high table-lands between that river and Grande river until he reached the latter river which he crossed and still continuing his course southwesterly approached the Colorado at the great canon below the junction of the Green and Grande rivers. Finding no place where he could gain access to the river so as to cross to its right bank on account of the perpendicular walls that for hundreds of miles form the canon, he worked his way southerly until passing below the canon he attempted to cross the Colorado at the Mohave Indian villages. While crossing over to the west shore of the river and when the men of his party were distributed some on either bank of the river and some on rafts the Mohave Indians, who in large numbers and with most perfect semblance of peace and friendship were aiding the party to cross the river suddenly rose upon and surprising the party in a most unexpected moment and manner, killed all but two or three of the party. Mr. Smith, who had with two or three men crossed over the river, made his escape and reached the Mission of San Gabriel in November or the beginning of December, 1826. The military authorities at that mission conducted him to San Diego, the then military headquarters of the Territory of Alta California. After some delay and detention at that place he was permitted to gather a few men and obtain some supplies with which he proceeded by the way of the Tulare and San Joaquin valleys where he joined in the spring of 1827 the party left there the previous year.

To avoid the Sierra Nevada and the desert country lying to the west and southwest of Salt Lake Mr. Smith resolved to proceed northerly keeping the Sierra Nevadas on his right and by a detour around its northern part reach the waters of Snake river north of

Salt Lake. But as he left the Sacramento valley at its northern extremity on the west side of the Sacramento river he found the country rough and mountainous and the difficulty of following up the river or in its vicinity with his pack animals and a large number of horses which he was driving so great, he was induced to work his way westerly over the mountains toward the coast in the hope of finding along the coast a country presenting fewer obstacles. He struck the coast about one hundred miles north of Ross, a port and settlement of the Russian Fur Company and traveling northerly along the coast he reached the Umpquah river, where, while he, with one man was searching for a ford the Indians rose upon his camp and killed all the men in camp excepting two or three, who escaped. Smith and the man who escaped the massacre succeeded in reaching Fort Vancouver, a trading port of the Hudson Bay Company, on the Columbia river. He there entered into an arrangement with the governor of that port by which it was agreed on the part of the governor that he would send a party of men to the Umpquah river Indians with whom the company was on trading terms and endeavor to recover from them the fur, horses and what other property belonging to Mr. Smith could be obtained and bring it to Fort Vancouver. In consideration of this friendly assistance Mr. Smith was required to sell his fur to the company at a stipulated price which was less than half its value in St. Louis as well as the horses and mules and all other property required by or useful to a trapping party which might be recovered from the Indians at a merely nominal price. Another stipulation required by the governor under the pretext that it would be necessary to send a large party to the Umpquah so as to overawe the Indians and induce them to deliver up the property and as it would not require so large a party to return with the property to Fort Vancouver, and as he had but few spare men at the fort he would send out a trapping party with some extra men to return with furs and horses, but Mr. Smith must permit one of his men who had escaped the massacre to accompany the proposed trapping party and guide it from the Umpquah to the Sacramento valley. As this was made a condition upon which assistance to recover his property would be afforded Mr. Smith was obliged to accede to the proposal.

A trapping party was sent down under McLeod. The fur was recovered without difficulty and most of the horses and the beaver traps with which the outfit of McLeod's party was completed and Mr. Turner, an American, one of Mr. Smith's men, led the party into the Sacramento valley in 1828. Mr. Smith returned with the fur to Fort Vancouver and settled with the governor who had not been idle during Smith's absence to the Umpquah. He had prepared and started another trapping party under Mr. Ogden (a New Yorker who had been in the employ of the Hudson Bay Com-



pany a number of years), to proceed up the Columbia and Lewis rivers and to go south until he should find the trail made by Smith in his first trip into the Tulare and San Joaquin valleys and follow it into those valleys. This was done to anticipate any attempt that Smith might make to get to the rendezvous of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company or to any trapping party of that company which might be on the headwaters of Lewis or Green rivers and get back to the California rivers before McLeod should have cleaned them of their furs. Ogden entered the Tulare valley in the winter of 1828-9 upon Smith's first trail.

McLeod made a most successful hunt, catching a large number of beaver, but leaving the Sacramento valley late in the fall to return to Fort Vancouver he was overtaken in the mountains north of Pitt river (which route was first discovered and traveled by him), by a snow storm which snowed in his party and caused him to lose all his horses and mules and forced him to cache his furs, traps, etc., and go out of the snow on foot. The fur was cached under the snow, which melting in the spring before the means for removing the fur reached that place from Fort Vancouver, it was ruined. For the imprudence of leaving the Sacramento valley so late in the season or from his misfortune in being overtaken by a snowstorm, he was discharged from the service of the Hudson Bay Company.

Ogden, with his party, entered the great California valley at the extreme southeast the same fall that McLeod left it at its northern extremity. He remained in the valley about eight months and with a valuable collection of fur left it upon the trail made by McLeod and reached Fort Vancouver in safety.

The next party of Hudson Bay trappers that came into the California valley was commanded by Michel, who with a party numbering upward of forty men many of whom were accompanied by their families, entered the valley from Fort Vancouver by the McLeod trail early in the spring of 1832. He remained in the valley until the summer of 1833 when with a good hunt he returned over the same path to the Columbia river.

In the fall of 1827 Nathaniel Pryor, an American, who with James Kirker, had been working the Santa Rita copper mine in the then northern part of Chihuahua, associated himself with Jesse Furgeson, Richard Laughlin, George Yount, Slover, Pattie and his son, J. O. Pattie, and with William Pope, started out from the copper mines which were near the southeast course of the Gila river and trapped that river and some of its tributaries down to its confluence with the Colorado. After reaching the Colorado and finding it difficult to trap on horseback owing to the character of its bottomlands and the denseness of the undergrowth along the river banks and that the only manner by which it could be successfully trapped was by using canoes instead of horses for locomotion, the party

divided. Messrs. Yount, Slover and Pope returned to the copper mine, and thence to Toas in New Mexico, while Pryor, Laughlin, Furgerson, Pattie and son made canoes and trapped the Colorado in the neighborhood of the junction and down to tide-water where after the trapping season was past, they cached their fur in the spring of 1828, and, crossing the desert above the head of the Gulf succeeded, after suffering greatly from thirst and hunger in reaching the Mission of Santa Catalina on foot, where they were hospitably treated but put under arrest and conducted to San Diego, where for sometime they were detained as prisoners. In the following fall or winter they succeeded in obtaining permission and means to go to the river for their beaver skins. On their arrival at the river they found that their cache of furs had been overflowed by the river during the summer and the fur was all ruined. They returned to San Diego and eventually were permitted to go at large upon the security of one of the inhabitants. Mr. Pryor was a silversmith and watchmaker, and Father Peyri of San Luis Rey Mission, learning that fact procured the release of Pryor and took him to the mission and gave him employment at his trade for some time. The elder Pattie was old and feeble and never entirely recuperated from the effects of the suffering endured while going from the Colorado river to the Mission of Santa Catalina. He died in San Diego. His son soon after left California. Pryor, Laughlin and Furgerson settled and married in Los Angeles.

In 1829 Ewing Young of Tennessee, who had traded in New Mexico, and had also trapped beaver in the northern part of that territory, fitted out a trapping party at Toas, traveled westerly to the tributaries of Grande River, and down that river and across Green River, entering California upon the Smith trail. In the valley he found Ogden with his large party of trappers from Fort Vancouver. After spending some little time on the streams emptying into Tulare Valley lakes and upon the San Joaquin River and its affluents, he came into the settlements of California with his party. He was in Los Angeles a few days and his men behaved very roughly. On the day he left Los Angeles one of his men, James Higgins, shot and killed one of the party, Big Jim, in a most cowardly manner while on the road between Los Angeles and San Gabriel. His body was left in the road where he fell from his horse upon receiving the fatal shot. These two men were both Irishmen, and Big Jim was a burly, overbearing man by nature, and when under the influence of liquor was intolerable, and Higgins in like condition was uncontrollable. The men were all suffering from the effects of days of debauchery, and the major portion of them were intoxicated at the time and could not be controlled by Young, who, fearing that still more blood might be shed, as well as apprehensive

of trouble with the authorities and people of the country, did not stop to bury the dead, but continued his march. Young reached Toas, New Mexico, in the summer of 1830.

In the fall of 1830 William Wolfskill, a native of Kentucky, but who while a youth accompanied his father, who with his family removed to and settled in Missouri, having been for some years engaged in the Missouri-Santa Fe trade and in trapping beavers and trading in New Mexico and the northern states of Mexico, and had traveled from Santa Fe through Chihuahua, Durango, Taumalipas and Texas to Missouri and back to New Mexico by the way of the plains, encouraged by Ewing Young, formed a partnership with Young and a Mr. Houck, a Santa Fe trader, who furnished pecuniary aid and fitted out a trapping party at Toas for the purpose of trapping in the waters of the great California valley, from which Young had but recently returned.

Leaving Toas, he went westerly until he struck the source of the San Juan River, which he followed down a short distance, and then turning more northerly fell upon the tributaries of Grande River, and following that river westerly to where it bends nearly south, he left it and traveled westerly to Green River, which he crossed and followed down to its junction with Grande River, where it takes the name Colorado, and continuing on down the Colorado fifty miles or more and finding that it ran in a canyon and was so walled in as to be unapproachable, he left the neighborhood of the river and, going westerly, struck the Sevier River, which he left behind and pursued a southwesterly course toward the California Valley. Becoming entangled in the irregular mountains, enveloped in snow and suffering from cold and scarcity of food, demoralization and disorganization seized his company, composed of discordant materials drawn from New Mexico, comprising Americans, Canadians, St. Louis Frenchmen and New Mexicans, which forced him to abandon his route and travel southerly. He entered the present county of Los Angeles through the Cajon Pass at San Bernardino and reached the city (then pueblo) of Los Angeles in February, 1831, where his party broke up, leaving him without means or resources and a heavy debt in New Mexico. Some of the men of his party returned to New Mexico that same year, some remained for a number of years and others became permanent residents of California. George C. Yount, heretofore mentioned, subsequently settled in Napa Valley; Lewis Burton settled in Santa Barbara, and Z. Branch of San Luis Obispo came with Wolfskill.

In September, 1831, Mr. Jackson, before referred to, left Santa Fe, New Mexico, for California with a party of eleven men all told. Nine of the men were hired by the month at wages aver-

aging about \$25 per month. Mr. Jackson and his negro slave Jim made up the balance of the company.

Ewing Young with his party of trappers left Toas, New Mexico, in September, 1831, to trap the waters of the Gila River and the lower Colorado, and to join Jackson in California in the spring of 1832. His company consisted of about thirty men, the greater number of whom were hired by the month. Some few of the men were independent trappers. These furnished their own outfits of arms, animals, provisions and traps, but were subject to the same rules and regulations governing the party as the hired men, and at the expiration of the hunt of the season, turned their fur over to the commander of the party at a price agreed upon at the organization of the company.

The beaver traps with which the men were provided were mostly new ones bought in New Mexico, and owing to a slight defect in their manufacture, which might have been easily remedied if it had been discovered in time, very few beavers were caught, although there were plenty where they hunted. The defect in the trap consisted in the upper eye of the springs, which was so large that it did not press upon the edges of the upright parts of the jaws of the trap, and the beavers were able to pull out the foot when it was caught by the trap. This defect was readily cured by closing up the eye of the spring a little and making it of an oval shape instead of round, but the cause of the trouble was not discovered until the season was about over and the party was leaving the Colorado River. He reached Los Angeles about the first of April, 1832. Most of the men who came with him left California with Jackson and returned with him to New Mexico. Those who remained were Moses Carson, an elder brother of Christopher Carson. He continued with Young until the summer of 1834, when he left him at Los Angeles, where he remained for some years and then moved to and located upon the Russian River. Isaac Williams, who settled in Los Angeles and died in San Bernardino county. Ambrose Tomlinson, who also continued with Young until the summer of 1834 and left him at Los Angeles, where he remained for some time and then settled at San Jose. Isaac J. Sparks left Young in the spring of 1832 and settled, married and died in Santa Barbara. Joseph Dougherty, who remained with Young until the summer of 1834. Wm. Emerson and a Mr. Denton were also of Young's party.

Between 1832 and 1840 Frapp, Bridger and Fitzpatrick, of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, successors to Smith, Jackson & Soubllette, each came into California one or two times with trapping parties.

Ewing Young, with his small party of trappers,, consisting of

Moses Carson, Joseph Dougherty, Ambrose Tomlinson, Wm. Emerson, J. J. Warner, Mr. Denton and others to the number of fourteen, which, as herein before stated, was left at the mouth of Kings River in the fall of 1832, trapped that river up to and some distance into the mountains and then passed on to the San Joaquin River, trapped that river down to canoe navigation in the foothills, where a canoe was made, and three men were detached from the party to trap that river by means of the canoe. The main body continued on northwesterly until they struck a tributary of the San Joaquin, now called the Fresno River, which was trapped down through the foothills to the plains, where it was discovered that the river had been recently trapped. Young now followed this river down to its junction with the San Joaquin, where after a few days' delay he was joined by the canoe men, who had found the San Joaquin to have been trapped. The company now proceeded on without delay to the Sacramento River, striking it a few miles below the mouth of the American River. A short distance below, where he struck the Sacramento River, was found a large party of the Hudson Bay Company's trappers from Fort Vancouver, under Michel. This party had been in the valley since early in the spring of 1832, having come in over the McLeod trail and had trapped all the waters of the valley north and west of the San Joaquin River.

Young and his party reached the Sacramento River in the evening of the first day of a long and continuous rainstorm which held him encamped some twenty days, and until flooded out of his camp by the river, which, after inundating all the land round about, overflowed its banks and forced him to make his way over and through sloughs, lakes, mud and mire to the unsubmergible bank of the American River. Here a rawhide boat was constructed with which the party was ferried to the opposite shore, and by a long and circuitous route succeeded in again reaching and crossing the Sacramento River at the mouth of Feather River, in January, 1833. Finally, after a month's experience of amphibious life, the party reached the dry land of the Putah River, leaving behind a deluged world in which for weeks it had wallowed. Ascending the mountain and passing along the southern and western shore of Clear Lake, the party traveled northwesterly and struck the shore of the ocean about seventy-five miles north of Ross, a port of the Russian-American Fur Company.

Young followed along up the coast, searching with little success for rivers having beaver, and in fruitless attempts to recross the mountain range, until near the Umpquah River, where he succeeded in getting over the mountains and fell upon that river at the eastern base of the coast range of mountains. This river was

followed up to its southeastern source, and then traveling Smith's trail, he struck the Klamath Lake near its northern extremity. From thence he traveled southerly along its western shore and, crossing the Klamath and Rogue Rivers and passing through the camp where McLeod lost his horses and valuable catch of beaver skins, crossed Pitt River and entered the Sacramento Valley, which he descended to the American River and then crossed the country to the San Joaquin River, up which he traveled to the great bend and then to the mouth of Kings River, where, striking the trail of the preceding year, he followed it southerly to Lake Elizabeth, where, leaving it, he traveled more easterly along the northern base of the mountain to the San Bernardino Cajon Pass, through which he entered the valley of San Bernardino in December, 1833, and passing on to Temecula, took the trail upon which he had come from the Colorado in the spring of 1832, and returned to that river to make a winter and spring season hunt upon it and the lower part of the Gila River. He was moderately successful in this hunt and returned to Los Angeles in the early part of the summer of 1834 and proceeded northerly through the settlements of California, purchasing a drove of horses which he took to the Columbia River, where he settled and died, leaving considerable property, but no lawful heirs, either in Oregon or New Mexico. During his residence in Oregon he visited California two or more times, purchasing stock, which he drove to that country.

From the establishment of the missions in Alta California in 1769 until 1830, a period of more than sixty years, there had been no intercourse whatever between the people of California and those of New Mexico, and their knowledge of each other was as vague and indefinite as was that of either respecting the subjects of the Kahn of Tartary. Nor was there any intercourse between the inhabitants of Sonora and those of Upper California after the destruction of the missions which were founded on the right bank of the Colorado above the confluence of the Gila, except from Guaymas across the gulf and up through the peninsula of Lower California. This was so difficult of accomplishment that practically there was no intercourse whatever. When Jackson's party came from New Mexico to California in 1831 there could not be found in either Tucson or Altar—although they were both military posts and towns of considerable population—a man who had ever been over the route from those towns to California by the way of the Colorado River, or even to that river, to serve as a guide, or from whom any information concerning the route could be obtained, and the trail from Tucson to the Gila River at the Pima villages was too little used and obscure to be easily followed, and from those villages down the Gila River to the Colorado River



and from thence to within less than a hundred miles of San Diego there was no trail, not even an Indian path.

The return of Young's party, (in which there were a number of New Mexicans), from California to New Mexico in 1830 spread among the people of the latter country a knowledge of California which led to the opening of trade between the two sections which grew into considerable importance and lasted for about twelve years. It was carried on by means of caravans which made the round trip journey yearly. Blankets of various styles, colors and qualities, and other coarse woolen goods manufactured in New Mexico, were taken to California. Chinese silk goods and fine bleached grass cloth, mules, horses and money composed the articles of the return trade. Growing out from this trade and intercourse, a colony of New Mexicans was planted in the new county of San Bernardino, and a number of families and young men also came across the country with the merchants and settled in other parts of California. With these New Mexican traders, a number of Americans and men of foreign nationalities found their way to California from New Mexico, some of whom settled permanently in California. Among the number of Americans who came to California from New Mexico with these trading caravans were Dr. John Marsh, who, after spending some years at Los Angeles, settled upon a ranch and bred stock near Mount Diablo, and who was murdered while a resident upon his ranch; John Wolfskill, a brother of Wm. Wolfskill, who settled on Putah River after spending some years in Los Angeles; Jacob P. L. Leese, who remained some time in Los Angeles engaged in mercantile business and afterwards at Yerba Buena and still later settled in Monterey; John Rowland and William Workman (the latter an Englishman) who had been for some years residents of and married in New Mexico, and who obtained by grant from the government and settled upon the Puente ranch in Los Angeles county, came from New Mexico with these trading parties, bringing with them their families. Slover, before spoken of, and Wm. Pope also came with these caravans, bringing with them their families from New Mexico. The latter of these settled in Los Angeles and built the first grist mill in that town. Subsequently he moved up the country and settled in what was known as Pope's Valley, in the mountains near the head of the Putah River. Slover settled in San Bernardino valley, where he lived for a number of years until he was killed by a grizzly bear.

B. D. Wilson, of Tennessee, who had for some time been engaged in trapping beaver and trading in New Mexico, also came through with one of these trading parties about 1841, and soon after located and engaged in mercantile business in Los Angeles. He purchased,

together with Dana W. Alexander, large tracts of land on the Santa Ana River known as Jarupa and El Rincon. He subsequently sold his interest in that property and resumed his residence in Los Angeles. In 1854 he purchased the land where he now resides and engaged in the cultivation of the vine and fruits near the Mission of San Gabriel.

? In 1883 a party, in which were the following named persons, came over from New Mexico by the Gila route:

Cyrus Alexander, a tanner and currier, established himself in his business at Los Angeles, but subsequently removed to the Russian River and followed farming and stock raising.

Lemuel Carpenter settled, married and died in Los Angeles county. Upon his arrival he established soap works, in which business he was successful. He used the native natron, or soap weed, of which large quantities effloresced in some parts of the country near Los Angeles, as an alkali for the making of hard soap. This alkali had long been used in the missions and by the people of California for that purpose.

William Chard, a butcher, remained some years in Los Angeles, a part of the time engaged in butchering, and, together with Mr. Carpenter, planted the vineyard now known as the Rowland vineyard in Los Angeles. After a few years' residence in Los Angeles he moved up country and settled in the Sacramento Valley.

Joseph Paulding, a cabinet maker and house joiner, remained some years in Los Angeles employed at his trade. He made the first two billiard tables in Los Angeles. In fact, with the exception of one made in Monterey which had no cloth, they were the first ever made or seen in California. The lumber with which these two billiard tables were made was mahogany brought by sea from San Blas, Mexico, in the log and sawed with a whip saw in Los Angeles. The lathe for turning the legs was made in Los Angeles by Paulding, and when the tables were finished they would have compared favorably with those made in the United States. One of the tables was made in 1833 for George Rice, the other in the following year for John Rhea.

Mr. Turk, another butcher, who remained some time in Los Angeles engaged in butchering with Chard, soon located and carried on his business in Santa Barbara, where he was stabbed in the chest by a negro. From this wound he suffered a long time. He partly recovered and went East, but finally died from its effect.

Albert Toomes, who spent some time in Los Angeles and in the San Bernardino mountains as a whip-saw sawyer, at which business he was a most expert workman, also settled in the Sacramento Valley.

Isaac Williams and Isaac J. Sparks, who were of Young's trapping party which came to California in the spring of 1832, each engaged in the business of sea-otter shooting immediately after their arrival. The former was a member of a trapping party fitted out from Arkansas in 1830 which broke up on the head waters of the Arkansas River and drifted into New Mexico. The latter was of Smith's party from St. Louis to Santa Fe in the spring of 1831. Williams followed the business of otter hunting a couple of years and then engaged in mercantile business at Los Angeles, where he married. Subsequently he retired from this business and in 1840 or 1841 he established himself as a California rancher and American farmer on the Chino rancho, in the present county of San Bernardino, where he died. Sparks pursued the sea-otter shooting business a greater length of time and then located in Santa Barbara, where he followed merchandizing and stock raising, and died. Both of these men were successful as otter hunters and as business men, and accumulated handsome properties.

Upon the dissolution of Wolfskill's trapping party in February, 1831, he and Yount, who came with him, associated themselves with Samuel Prentice, a sailor and expert boatman, Nathaniel Pryor and Richard Laughlin in an enterprise to build a vessel in which to prosecute the hunting of sea otter, which then abounded along the coast of both Alta and Lower California, as well as around the islands adjacent. Before leaving New Mexico, Mr. Wolfskill had obtained letters of naturalization from the authorities of the Territory. This was a necessary proceeding in order to obtain a license to hunt or trade with the Indians in Mexican territory for furs. Before leaving New Mexico, Mr. Wolfskill made application for and received from the Governor of that Territory a license to hunt beaver within the Mexican territory. It was a provincialism of New Mexico to use the word "nutria" instead of "castor" for beaver. The first was the Spanish word for otter and the latter that for beaver. In California the two words were correctly used. The license of Mr. Wolfskill from the Governor of New Mexico, following the provincialism of that country, authorized him to hunt nutria (otter) throughout the jurisdiction of Mexico. Upon the presentation of his license to the authorities of California, they hesitated and for a time demurred to the power of the Governor of New Mexico to grant a license which should be valid beyond the limits of the territory over which he was Governor. But as the California officers, who had as little knowledge of New Mexico or of its people as the latter had of California or of sea-otter, did not choose to present this issue with the officers of a sister Territory, and as they could not think of disputing the object for which the license was issued, because it was plainly written over the

sign manual of the Governor and under the Great Seal of New Mexico that he might hunt and catch nutria, the license was recognized as good and valid, and that under its authority Mr. Wolfskill could extend his hunt over the ocean and capture sea-otter, although foreigners resident of California, even if married to native Californians, were not suffered to engage in this business. Those foreign residents married to California women who wished to engage in sea-otter hunting were compelled to procure a license in the name of their wives.

Obtaining the moral and material aid of Father Sanches of the Mission of San Gabriel, Mr. Wolfskill and some of his associates went to the mountains of San Bernardino in the early part of the summer of 1831 and cut timber and sawed plank which were carted to San Pedro, a distance or more than a hundred miles, upon ox carts, the wheels of which were round blocks of wood, where they built a schooner of about thirty tons measurement which was named Refugio (refuge) by Father Sanches, in which they left San Pedro in January, 1832, and proceeded along the coast as far as the island of Cerros, in latitude 28° north. In the following summer they returned and hunted along the coast as far north as San Luis Obispo and about the islands south of Point Conception. In the following year Mr. Wolfskill abandoned the otter hunting business and settled in Los Angeles, where as a laborer, a contractor, and as a capitalist, a vineyard and orchard proprietor he stood first on the list of successful and industrious cultivators of the soil until his death on October 3rd, 1866. He left a fine estate to his heirs.

In 1841 or '42 he obtained a grant of four leagues, nearly eighteen thousand acres, of land lying on either side of the Putah creek on the western border of the Sacramento valley nearly west of the now city of Sacramento. This land he stocked with cattle and horses and planted with orchards and vineyards. He was a man of uncommonly sound and correct judgment and of temperate habits. With meager facilities for obtaining an education in his youth he had from a studious inclination and by the improval of all opportunities for the acquisition of books stored his mind with useful and popular scientific and general knowledge.

Samuel Prentice, a native of Rhode Island, and John Domingo, a native of Holland, came to California in the brig Danube of New York. The latter came from New York as the ship carpenter. The former came to the Pacific as a sailor in the United States sloop of war Brandywine, which ship he left in one of the ports of South America and shipped on the Danube at a South American port where she called on her passage to California. In the winter of 1830-31 the Danube, while lying at anchor in the roadstead of San Pedro, was driven from her anchor by a storm and wrecked upon

the San Pedro shore in the absence of the captain, who was at the town of Los Angeles. This was the first and almost the only vessel sent by New York merchants to the coast of California prior to 1846. Prentice was a stone mason, and when not engaged in hunting sea otter or fishing, of which pursuits he was passionately fond, worked at his trade in Los Angeles. He died at and was buried upon the island of Santa Catalina.

Domingo worked at his trade, planted a vineyard, married a wife, raised a family of children, acquired a competency and died in Los Angeles.